

China, S. Arabia 'near to ties'

BEIJING (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng met a special envoy from Saudi Arabia Wednesday for talks which diplomats said could lead to an announcement on establishing diplomatic ties soon. Li and Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Riyadh's ambassador to Washington, "had a friendly conversation on international issues of common concern," the official New China News Agency said without further comment. Saudi Arabia is the last Arab state to have full diplomatic relations with nationalist Taiwan. Diplomats said it would have to break with Taipei to forge ties with communist Beijing. One diplomat said China and Saudi Arabia could establish relations as early as September and that a timetable would be announced at the end of Prince Bandar's visit. But another envoy quoted Chinese officials as having said recently that the process could take up to two years. Saudi Arabia's trade with Taiwan far exceeds its business with China, but diplomats said Riyadh was motivated by Islamic concerns to switch formal recognition to China where more than 35 million people are of the Muslim faith. "Saudi Arabia sees itself as a protector of Muslims in China," one Western diplomat commented.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرائي

Hrawi urges militia withdrawal

BEIRUT (AP) — President Elias Hrawi's government called Wednesday for a pullout of militias from Beirut as a first step towards ending Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war. The call came after a four-hour meeting of Hrawi's 14-man government in West Beirut. The statement, read by Minister of Information Edmond Rizk, urged all warring factions to "declare your clear acceptance" of a peace accord worked out by Lebanese legislators under Arab League auspices in the Saudi Arabian town of Taif last October. The Taif accord called for an equal distribution of power between Muslims and Christians. The statement called on rebel General Michel Aoun to "end his military" and ordered his 19,000 troops and officers "wherever they are deployed, to join immediately the legitimate command of Gen. Emil Lahoud or they will be fired from service." The government statement called on Aoun's foe, Christian warlord Samir Geagea, to withdraw his Lebanese Forces militia from the east Beirut districts of Ashrafieh and Karantina and the Beirut port area. It said Lahoud's troops and police forces would "take over" the areas evacuated by the Christian militia in preparation for declaring a "militia-free administrative Beirut including the capital's eastern and western sectors."

Volume 15 Number 4437

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 12-13, 1990, DHUL HIJJEH 20-21, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Fahd, Mubarak discuss peace efforts

JEDDAH (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Wednesday discussed ways of accelerating Middle East peace efforts, Arab diplomatic sources reported. Officials said without elaborating that the two leaders were discussing current Arab issues and bilateral relations. But the diplomats said the two men exchanged views on means of getting the United States to help achieve an Arab-Israeli peace acceptable to the Palestinians.

Bhutto ends talks in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan concluded Wednesday talks with President Saddam Hussein on the Middle East conflict and her country's dispute with India over the Kashmir province, the official media said. Bhutto spent the second day of her state visit on the road, visiting holy shrines at Karbala and Najaf south of the capital. Bhutto was scheduled to leave later for Kuwait, the second stop of a tour aimed mainly at drumming up support for Islamabad's policy on Kashmir.

Levy puts off meeting Baker

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will not be able to meet U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Paris next week due to health problems, a foreign ministry spokesman said Wednesday. Levy, 52, suffered a mild heart attack after taking office in June and spent 11 days in hospital. Last week Baker invited Levy to meet him in Paris July 18 or 19 to tackle differences between the two countries over stalled Middle East peace efforts. Three European Community foreign ministers asked to meet Levy in Rome afterwards.

Algerian premier, ministers leave party politburo

ALGIERS (R) — Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche and four of his cabinet ministers were dropped from the politburo of Algeria's ruling party in a reshuffle prompted by its crushing electoral defeat last month. But they remain in the central committee of the National Liberation Front (FLN), which had been Algeria's only legal party for 27 years. The committee issued a statement of support for the government's economic and political reforms. The shake-up, announced Tuesday night, capped a three-day meeting of the 268-member central committee after an upset victory by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in local elections June 12.

Hamas denounces PLO criticism

NICOSIA (R) — The Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, vying for leadership of the Palestinian uprising hit back Wednesday at Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The PLO weekly, Palestine Al Thawra, Sunday accused Hamas of playing into the hands of Israel and the United States. "While expressing strong denunciation of this surprise position which comes as Hamas is extending its hand for dialogue and coordination... we declare we will not be dragged into press recriminations benefiting neither side," Hamas said in a statement sent to Reuters in Cyprus. The PLO attack, accusing Hamas of offering itself as an alternative leader of the uprising, was the strongest so far.

Libyan envoy arrives in Doha

NICOSIA (R) — Libya's armed forces chief-of-staff who is on an Arab tour, arrived in Qatar Wednesday, the Qatari News Agency reported. The agency gave no information on the aim of his visit. Colonel Mustafa Al Kharoubi has already been to Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, conveying messages to their heads of state from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Central Bank reaffirms guarantee; new committee to run Jordan Gulf

Petra Bank faces liquidation; accounts go to Housing Bank

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government Wednesday ended speculation over the fate of Petra Bank by announcing a decision to close down the financially troubled institution and to transfer all its accounts, including deposits in all currencies, to the Housing Bank.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, said all Petra Bank deposits and accounts would now be available through the Housing Bank at the same terms and conditions originally agreed between the depositors and Petra Bank. In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Nabulsi said the process had guarantees from the CBJ, which will remain committed to its undertaking to protect all Petra Bank deposits.

The CBJ will serve as a coordinator to speed up the process of transfer of deposits in line with a decision taken by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) Tuesday, Nabulsi said.

According to an internal Petra Bank management memorandum available to the Jordan Times, all Petra Bank accounts, including electronic transfers, will be frozen

as of July 12 until July 21, when the transfer process will be completed and all deposits will be available at the Housing Bank. The account holders will have the choice to select the branches of their preference.

There was no immediate word on the actual amount of Petra Bank deposits involved, but sources have said earlier that the figure was in the region of JD 130 million. There was no indication of what part of this amount was owed to other banks.

Economists did not expect any serious pressure from depositors to withdraw their money from the transferred accounts, particularly that they will continue to have the same relatively high rate of interest that Petra Bank offered for their long-term deposits.

The Housing Bank was chosen for the transfer of deposits from Petra Bank because "it is one of the most efficient national banking institutions and it possesses the widest network of branches in the Kingdom," Nabulsi said Wednesday. At its heyday, Petra Bank was the second largest commercial bank in Jordan. The Housing Bank is a semi-government establishment, and, as its name suggests, is mostly devoted to promoting housing

schemes in the Kingdom. Nabulsi said all depositors will have the freedom to exercise their right to deposit, withdraw or invest money in any way they like after the process of transfer was completed.

Nabulsi also said that the ESC had repealed its earlier decision to merge Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank, which was also taken over by the ESC in August last year. A new committee will now be formed to supervise the affairs of the Jordan Gulf Bank to replace an ESC-appointed management panel which ran the affairs of both banks since their takeover.

The new committee will work in full coordination with the Central Bank and ensure the "continuation" of the Jordan Gulf Bank, according to Nabulsi.

The CBJ governor pledged that "serious and responsible efforts will be undertaken to ensure that no Petra Bank employee will be treated unjustly and that all employees would be employed in other banks and financial institutions, including a projected bank to finance exports."

However, this did not appear

(Continued on page 2)

Palestinians vow to turn Jerusalem into battleground

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in Arab Jerusalem, mourning a teenager they said was shot dead by police, vowed Wednesday to turn the city into a battleground. Police said Munthir Al Dabed, 16, could have been killed by a bomb he intended to use against a police post but witnesses in Jerusalem's Shuafat Palestinian refugee camp and doctors said police shot him.

"Our X-rays clearly show five high-velocity bullets in his chest. These X-ray photographs were later confiscated by the police," a doctor at Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital told Reuters.

Dabed was the 10th Jerusalem Palestinian killed in the 31-month-old uprising. Israelis have killed a total of 723 Palestinians during the intifada.

Shuafat's streets were strewn with rocks Wednesday and were scorched where burning tyres had blocked roads during a night of clashes between police and stone-throwing Arabs.

Grim-faced Palestinian youths, rocks in their hands, said fighting started when Jewish settlers cut down olive trees in nearby

Shuafat village, apparently in revenge for stone-throwing attacks on Israeli motorists.

Activists said tension had been rising since Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir last month formed the most right-wing government in Israeli history, committed to an increased Jewish presence in Arab Jerusalem.

In the past month bombs in west Jerusalem have killed one Israeli and wounded 13. On Sunday a Jewish policeman was seriously wounded in a stabbing attack in Arab Jerusalem.

"There is a wave of anger growing which is not being directed by any political group. It is the people facing the challenge of Shamir's war government and preparing to wage war in return," one young Palestinian said.

"The pressure is building and the explosion is not far off. Jerusalem will be another Beirut," he said.

Parts of Jerusalem are rapidly becoming like towns of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where Israeli motorists are regularly pelted with stones and petrol bombs.

In the Arab district of Silwan, near the walled Old City and bordering Jewish neighbourhoods, para-military border police this week patrolled in armoured vehicles while a helicopter hovered overhead.

Israeli-licensed vehicles parked in Arab Jerusalem near a high park of being set on fire or having their windows smashed.

At Shuafat a young Arab looked past the newly-scattered olive trees to a hillside where construction has begun on a new project to house thousands of Jews.

"This is my land and these are my people. If it is God's will that I should fight those that try to take it from us then I will fight to the last drop of my blood," he said.

The army demolished the homes of two Palestinian activists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip overnight, military sources said Wednesday.

Both Palestinians, Salim Jabri from the West Bank town of Hebron and Naim Atwana from Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp, are awaiting trial, the sources said.

Houston summit holds out hope of financial assistance to Moscow

HOUSTON (AP) — Western leaders ended their three-day summit Wednesday, holding out the hope of financial aid to the Soviet Union and agreeing to reduce agricultural subsidies.

U.S. President George Bush, who read excerpts from the final communiqué at the formal closing of the summit, praised "his colleagues for their cooperation in working out their differences."

"It's a fine tune," said French presidential spokesman Hubert Vedrine said of the leaders' final communiqué. "It's a compromise that truly reflects the concerns of all the participants."

The leaders met with their ministers for 30 minutes Wednesday morning, shorter than scheduled, as they put the last touches on the communiqué. It was the 16th annual meeting of European, Japanese and North American leaders.

The leaders expressed pleasure that at moves towards democracy and a free-market economy in Eastern Europe during the past

year, and said they their efforts to help Eastern Europe will not weaken their commitment to the Third World's economic development.

Bush noted that the next summit would be held in London in 1991. After he read the excerpts, the leaders adjourned to hold individual news conferences.

The final minutes of the summit were devoted to reaching agreement on several issues pertaining to cleaning up pollution and protecting the environment, Vedrine said. A British spokesman said the outstanding environmental issues were "minor."

The leaders committed themselves to a worldwide forestry protection plan. Reflecting sharp differences, however, the communiqué failed to set a specific course for stopping global warming.

"We are committed to undertake common efforts to limit emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide," the com-

munique said, referring to the main gas resulting from industry, cars and other burning of fuel. The buildup of the gas in the atmosphere allows the temperature of the earth to rise like the inside of a greenhouse.

But the communiqué omitted any specific ceilings on greenhouse emissions, which the Europeans had sought.

The communiqué holds out the hope that Western leaders may offer further financial aid to the Soviet Union towards democracy and a free-market economy.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush would probably send Gorbachev a letter with the summit's final communiqué. Bush also said he would telephone the Soviet leader in the weeks ahead.



Jerash Festival begins

JERASH (J.T.) — The ninth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts began Wednesday at this ancient Greco-Roman city. Her Majesty Queen Noor lit the torch at the festival site, declaring the 17-day event open for artistic and cultural activities by 12 foreign and numerous local groups. Events scheduled during the festival include folklore, Amer-

ican, French and Polish music, plays for adults and children, puppet theatre, concerts by at least two well-known Arabic singers and dances and songs by Jordanian groups in addition to handicrafts and books exhibitions and many other activities (Petra photo)

W. Germany welcomes changes in Jordan, pledges aid

Deputies raise hue and cry over unemployment

By Abdullah Hasanat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Wednesday resumed its debate on unemployment, deputies offered an assortment of solutions to the festering problem, including a call on the government to resign. Most of them also criticised the government's plan to tackle unemployment and one deputy described it as only "containing rhetoric, hatching procedures, lacking coherence and at times contradicting."

Deputy Hosni Al Shiyab said that investment necessary for combating unemployment, cannot be ensured "in an atmosphere of no confidence."

He attributed "no-confidence" to corruption "that in the past spread into some public and private institutions."

Deputy Fakhri Kassar said he was not surprised by the government's "failure" to solve unemployment because "it (the government) is incompetent to lead in the present stage."

In the strongest attack on the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Kassar accused the Cabinet of not being serious in its commitments as contained in its policy statement for which it won a vote of confidence from the House in January.

"The government was like a magician," he said, "playing with words and time."

Kassar warned that the circumstances that led to the price riots of April 1989 and the demonstrations of last May were

still there and that if a national government was not formed "we have to say good-bye to our social security."

Most of the deputies called on the government to distribute state-owned land to interested people, especially the unemployed.

The National Bloc presented a paper read by Deputy Samir Kassar proposing a plan to tackle unemployment.

The most prominent part of the bloc's plan is a suggestion dealing with agriculture. It called for a comprehensive study of land and water resources, a reduction of cost through "ending monopoly," increased agricultural loans, improved marketing, improved livestock breeding, and distribution of state land among graduates.

Many of the deputies speaking in Wednesday's session called for a national conference to address unemployment. They also agreed that foreigners were taking many jobs in the market and depriving Jordanians from job opportunities, and called on the government to restrict the issuance of work permits.

Deputy Shiyab, however, called for granting all foreign workers the same benefits granted to Jordanians.

He said that in order to reduce foreign labour "minimum wages must be set" and the labour law must be enforced on all. "That includes the weekend holiday, daily work hours, annual and sick leaves, overtime work and social

(Continued on page 2)

Ligachev seeks to be second man in party

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Hard-line champion Yegor Ligachev staged a dramatic bid for power in the Soviet Communist Party Wednesday and Mikhail Gorbachev was unable to stop his attempt to gain the party's number two post.

In an open struggle between reformers and conservatives at the party's 28th congress, Ligachev presented himself as the "Marxist-Leninist" candidate for deputy to Gorbachev — and was first dropped and then put back on the ballot.

The 69-year-old conservative standard-bearer stood for the job, which will give its holder almost total control of day-to-day operations of the ruling party, against Gorbachev's own candidate, Ukrainian leader Vladimir Ivashko.

In a speech to the party's congress, Ligachev called for "A union of democratic forces supporting socialism," adding: "I think there is an overwhelming majority supporting the principles of Marxism-Leninism."

Minutes later, amid scenes of confusion and uproar, Gorbachev intervened from the chair to cite rules saying candidates could only go on the ballot paper if there were no objections against them.

Radical deputies rushed to microphones to object to Ligachev's candidature — although none rejected Ivashko or an outsider also standing — and the 4,700 delegates then narrowly voted the hardliner off the ballot.

But one conservative challenged Gorbachev's use of the rule book, arguing that it did not apply to party congresses, and the delegates in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses reversed their vote against Ligachev.

A glum-looking Gorbachev then announced that Ligachev, the 58-year-old Ivashko who earlier announced he had resigned as president of the Ukraine, and Anatoly Dudyrev, a 45-year-old Leningrad professor, were all on the ballot.

It was not immediately clear whether the vote would be held later Wednesday or Thursday, scheduled to be the last day of the congress which has seen the first factional debate at such a forum since the early 1920s.

The stunning see-saw clearly illustrated Gorbachev's less than total control of the congress, despite his reelection as party general secretary Tuesday with 75 per cent of the delegates backing him.

King meets Powell, receives Indian message

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday held talks with General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and also received a message from Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh delivered by a senior Indian parliament leader.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported both meetings, did not give details. The King's talks with Powell, attended by Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker and American Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth, were expected to have centred on regional security issues, according to reports in the U.S. press.

Powell, who arrived here from Cairo after visits to Tunisia and Morocco, is on what is described as an "orientation" trip to the Middle East. He will also visit Israel.

The Indian prime minister's message to the King was delivered by Deputy Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Neelam Hebbulla, who arrived here earlier in the day on a three-day visit, in an audience attended by Sherif Zeid and Indian Ambassador Gajendra Singh. Petra said the message dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation.

According to diplomatic sources, the message also covered the dispute between Pakistan and India over Kashmir.

During her stay here, Hebbulla, a member of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party, will also hold talks with the speakers and members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

In an arrival statement carried by Petra, the Indian politician described Indo-Jordanian relations as excellent and "as old as history." She said India welcomed the resumption of parliamentary life and the democratisation process in Jordan, noting that her country had embraced democracy immediately after it gained independence from Britain in 1947.

The Indian message to the King coincides with a visit Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is paying to Arab Gulf states, including Iraq, in a bid to secure support for Islamabad's position in the Kashmir dispute prior to a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers later this month in Cairo.

5,000 Albanians scheduled to sail for Italy, France

ROME (Agencies) — About 5,000 Albanian refugees sheltered by Western embassies in Tirana are expected to leave Albania by sea for Italy and France Thursday, an Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He said the Tirana government was expected to give authorisation for the refugees to leave the French, West German and Italian embassies later Wednesday.

They would then be taken to the port of Durazzo, on Albania's Adriatic coast, the spokesman said.

About 3,000 from the West German and Italian embassies would sail for Italy and the other 2,000 would be collected by a French ship, he said.

An Italian-chartered ship headed Wednesday for Albania as part of the operation.

"The Albanians have reserved for themselves the right to decide at the last minute" what time the ships will arrive at the Adriatic city of Durres, the Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He added that authorities were afraid that if they released the details, Albanians would rush to get on board and "it would be a thing of Biblical proportions."

The spokesman said negotiations to complete formalities for

the departure of the refugees were being conducted with the Albanian government by United Nations envoy Stefan de Misura.

He said the Italian ships would be expected in Brindisi late Thursday.

After unprecedented street protests against Albania's hard-line communist government this month, thousands of mostly young dissidents fled from a police crackdown into embassy compounds in Tirana.

Thousands have been sleeping in corridors and gardens in sweltering heat, in scenes reminiscent of those at West German missions in Eastern Europe last year.

That flood of asylum-seekers, and a subsequent exodus of tens of thousands of East Germans to the West, sparked the popular revolution which led to the downfall of the East German Communist government and the destruction of the Berlin Wall.

The turmoil at the embassies appeared to contribute to a shakeup Saturday of Albania's ruling party politburo and central committee. Several hardliners associated with the late communist ruler Enver Hoxha were dismissed.

National News

ACC local government affairs ministers urge coordination

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers responsible for local government affairs and the environment in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries ended a two-day meeting here Wednesday by endorsing recommendations for the implementation of resolutions providing for cooperation in local government and municipal affairs.

The four ministers agreed to set up a joint team of experts to conduct a study of existing legislation on local government to finalise its work in six months' time and to work in cooperation with the ACC general secretariat, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul

Karim Al Dughmi who attended the meetings.

Dughmi said that the ministers also decided to create a joint committee at the level of ministry undersecretaries to propose ideas and plans for updating legislation on local government affairs through organising training seminars, conducting researches and studies and holding contacts with other countries in matters related to municipal and local affairs.

According to the minister, the meeting urged the concerned authorities to preserve and protect the cultural and historical heritage of cities and the Islamic architecture.

Special attention has been given to the condition of bedouin

tribes in the four-member ACC countries with the purpose of improving their living conditions.

"This would be done through conducting surveys, carrying out studies, allotting state owned land for housing projects, agricultural schemes and drilling artesian water wells for their animals," according to the minister.

He said that earth dams would be set up, agricultural roads build and health centres created for the benefit of the bedouin tribes in the four countries.

Dughmi said that the four ministers also endorsed a draft agreement on ways to protect the environment from pollution, with special attention to be given to the coastlands, wildlife reserves

UNRWA deplores Israeli measures

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has expressed concern that the agency's attempt to salvage the school year for 2,263 pupils at five schools in Tulikarm camp, West Bank, has been prevented by the Israeli civil administration.

The five schools, closed by military order from 11 February through 22 May and during several curfews in May and June, were scheduled to reopen on 10 July for one month to make up for lost time. The civil administration demanded that schools be closed for the summer holidays as of 2 July and warned UNRWA Jerusalem field office that they would forcibly prevent the agency from reopening the Tulikarm schools.

In view of the decision by the Israeli authorities, UNRWA has decided not to reopen the schools, in order not to expose the children to any possible harm.

UNRWA deplores this latest intervention in its education programme which prevents the agency from providing an appropriate education service to Palestine refugee children and from making the most effective use of public funds donated for this purpose.

Seville conference ends with call for closer cooperation

SEVILLE (Petra) — An Iberian-Latin American-Arab conference ended here Wednesday during which scholars, economists and leading politicians from the three regions and other countries discussed economic, social and political issues of concern to their nations.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan participated in the meeting, presented two working papers and delivered a speech tackling educational, cultural and economic issues and calling for closer cooperation between Latin American and Arab countries in these fields.

Prince Hassan called for proper action by the two sides to "stem cultural invasion and to protect national culture and heritage in the face of attempts of foreign domination."

"In the Middle East Arab region we are witnessing a new form of cultural oppression backed by Israel's military force in the occupied Arab territories," Prince Hassan said.

"The Israeli authorities in Jerusalem and other parts of the Arab land are violating the sanctity of the Christian and Muslim holy places and are distorting school textbooks, closing Arab universities, evicting Arab population

from their homes and settling new Jewish immigrants in their place," Prince Hassan added.

"These inhuman practices as well as Israel's drive to bring about a drastic change in the cultural and demographic situation in the occupied territories can only be stemmed by prompt and effective measures on the part of the United Nations and specialised organisations concerned with education and culture, like the U.N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), which can help the cultural heritage on the Palestinian land," Prince Hassan said.

Tackling the economy, Prince Hassan called on the Arab and Latin American nations to join forces in their struggle to deal with the foreign debt issue. "In 1988 the total Arab foreign debts amounted to \$140 billion in addition to interests on the debts which amounted to some \$12 billion," the Prince pointed out.

He said that formation of economic blocs can not only help individual nations to overcome difficult conditions but can also serve as a back-up for cultural and social development in view of

the creation of a united Europe by 1992.

Prince Hassan said that both Portugal and Spain, which are European Community members, can serve as a link between the Arab and the European nations on the one hand and the Latin American on the other.

The European Community and the emergence of a United Europe, Prince Hassan said, can have a significant and positive effect on future Arab-European links.

Prince Hassan on Tuesday evening, laid the cornerstone for the Jordanian pavilion at the site of the Seville international exposition which will be opened in 1992.

At least 114 countries, including 14 Arab states, will take part in the six-month exposition which is designed to boost cultural exchanges between nations of the world.

Activities at the exposition include cultural events, seminars, conferences, exhibitions and other functions projecting developments in science, technology and literary and cultural work.

Present at the ceremony were Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and members of the Jordanian delegation accompanying the Prince to the Seville conference.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

ACC central banks to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The governors of the central banks of the four member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will meet in Amman July 17 to discuss several financial and monetary issues in addition to a working paper presented to the ACC general secretariat about the establishment of a joint bank for the four ACC countries. The bank's envisaged role is to finance exports of the ACC member states, encourage financing of joint ventures and projects and serve as a regional clearing house. The governors will also discuss two working papers presented by the central banks of Jordan and Iraq on the establishment of a bank for inter-ACC payments.

Pakistani Islamic judge due Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Jamal Mohammad Khan arrives in Amman Friday on a several-day official visit to Jordan for talks with the ministers of Awqaf and Islamic affairs, justice, the chief Islamic justice and senior government officials and judges. The talks will focus on bolstering scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Pakistan in the fields of laws and regulations in force at Sharia and civil courts.

Senior army officers start course

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Wednesday opened a training course for senior army officers at the Royal War College. Participants from Jordan, Iraq and Oman are taking part in the course. The opening ceremony was attended by chief of staff assistants, the Royal Air Force commander, the commander of the Royal War College, senior army officers, the Omani ambassador to Jordan and the Iraqi military attache in Amman.

Special operation course for women ends

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuheid Wednesday attended the graduation ceremony of 12 police women from a special operations course. After demonstrations of skill by the graduates, Fuheid distributed diplomas to the graduates. The five-week course is organised for the first time for police women.

French warships end Aqaba visit

AQABA (J.T.) — Two French naval warships La Marne and Le Commandant Ducaing left Aqaba port Wednesday morning following a five-day visit during which their 290 crew toured archaeological sites of the Nabatean city of Petra and Amman and visited Wadi Rum. The crew also played soccer and handball games with local teams during the visit. The warships were under the command of Admiral Pierre Bounot who commands the French fleet in the Indian Ocean.

Passport department extends office hours

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the General Passports and Civil Registration Department Issa Al Omari decided Wednesday to extend the working hours at several department offices. The department's offices of Amman, Zarqa, Jerusalem, Hebron and Nablus will be open to the public from 8 a.m. till 3:30 p.m., according to the decision. The decision aims at facilitating procedures for citizens and reducing queues at the department's offices in the summer time when many Jordanian expatriates come home.

UKAZ elects executive committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — The general assembly of UKAZ Club (United Kingdom universities and institutions graduates) has elected a new executive committee last week in its extraordinary meeting held in Amman, following the resignation of its former committee. Hussam Shaath was elected president, Randa Taher vice-president, Said Khalifeh general secretary, Hasan Alacaddin treasurer and Dr. Medhat Abdulmalek MD, Riad Al Khouri and Ghazi Zreikat as members of the committee. Iyad Barghouti and Ussama Barghouti are reserve members.

CONDOLENCES

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of

Shibli Jiries Khouri

father of their friend and colleague **Saliba Khouri**. We wish to express our sorrow to the whole Khouri family, and may his soul rest in peace.

A memorial mass will be held for family and friends at the Orthodox Church in Abdali at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 13, 1990.

World Population Day observed Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan along with other nations of the world Wednesday observed "World Population Day" with several activities in Amman and other areas organised by the National Population Committee working in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and the Jordanian Society for Family Planning and Protection Association.

Dr. Mohammad Abdul Hadi, the committee's secretary-general, said that week-long activities would be held in observance of the occasion and in a bid to raise the Jordanian public's awareness of population issues.

"The QAF's Nuzha centre is organising free-of-charge medical examination of local citizens and lectures about population matters in Jordan," Abdul Hadi said.

"Similar activities have been organised in Madaba, Karak, Tafleh, Maan, Mafrqa and other rural regions," Dr. Abdul Hadi added.

The observance of the "World Population Day" coincided with the conclusion of a two-day meeting by experts from various Arab

countries in which they discussed issues related to population activities, human resources and development planning.

The delegates reviewed 12 working papers covering these issues as well as economic blocs being formed in the Arab World.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) was represented at the meeting by Dr. Nabih Khouri who reviewed practical measures that could be adopted by Arab states to help boost cooperation in population activities and human and material resources.

"The experts reviewed their own countries, population policies being implemented in cooperation with ILO teams and underlined the population activities and geographical distribution of people as basic factors in population strategies," Khouri said.

Deliberations, he said, demonstrated poor coordination in Arab countries between education and vocational training policies on the one hand and skilled labour requirements of each country on the other.

BRITISH CITIZENS: RIGHT TO VOTE

The Representation of the People Act of 1989 has made important changes in who can vote in U.K. Parliamentary and European Parliamentary Elections.

1. Even if you left the U.K. as long ago as October 1970 you can still vote.
2. People who left the U.K. before they were old enough to be included on the Electoral Register may register as overseas electors.
3. You need no longer declare an intention to return to the U.K.

In order to qualify you need to fill in an application form by "10 October 1990."

To get a form and explanatory leaflet contact the Consular Section, British Embassy, P.O. Box 87, Amman.

* 15 September 1990 in Northern Ireland.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Exhibition entitled "The Productive Families" displaying embroideries, ceramics, woollen clothes and foodstuffs at Al Qadisiyya Community College.
- * The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.
- * Art and craft exhibition by inter-schools at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- * Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

Jordan Times

Tel:

667171

URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT INVITATION TO BID

Date: 11th July, 1990
Loan No. 2587 JO
Tender No. (12/G2/90)

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the Second Urban Development Project (UDP2) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of Goods at Um-Nawarah Schools/Um-Nawarah Amman.
 2. The Urban Development Department of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (UDD) now invites sealed bids from bidders whose countries are members in the World Bank, Switzerland, China and Taiwan for the supply of:
- | Tender No. | Category No. | Description |
|------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| 12/G2/90 | 1 | Arts & Crafts |
| | 2 | Physics Equipment & General Science |
| | 3 | 3.1 Chemistry Equipment |
| | 4 | 3.2 Chemicals |
| | 5 | Biology Lab |
| | 6 | Women Vocational Education |
| | 7 | Office Equipment |
| | 8 | General Vocational W/Shop |
| | 9 | Sport Equipment |
| | 10 | Audio Visual Aids |
3. Eligible bidders interested in any category may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of: Urban Development Department, UDD Marka Housing Project, Amman - Jordan
Telex No.: 22249 UDD JO/Fax 883197
Tel. No.: 899361/62/63
P. O. Box : 927198
 4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of (50) JD.
 5. All bids must be accompanied by a security of not less than (10%) of the Bid Price, and must be delivered to the Director General, UDD, P.O. Box 927198, Amman - Jordan on or before 12:00 noon local time, on Sept. 11, 1990.
 6. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 1:00 noon local time, on Sept. 11, 1990 at the offices of UDD Marka Housing Project - Amman.

Termination of Jbeiha park contract — story of a long feud

By Joumana Helasa and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — The decision by the authorities to terminate the management contract of the Jbeiha amusement park after three years of installation and operation by a British private sector company has exposed a long-running conflict which apparently involves financing, the devaluation of the dinar and charges and counter-charges of mismanagement of what has come to be known as Jordan's "Disney Land."

"The decision was taken to protect the interests of the Greater Amman Municipality," said Ali Suheimat, mayor of the capital. "There are several reasons behind the decision, but the main factors are financial losses and management problems," he told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The municipal council's decision to terminate the management contract with Chipperfields of Southampton, London, and to appoint a temporary caretaker committee to assume charge of the park followed reports in the local press that trouble was brewing over the facility, the first of its kind in Jordan and a regular haunt for many families during holidays.

Chipperfields representative and manager of the amusement park John Allen said he had not received any legal notification of the decision by Wednesday afternoon nor was the company or its local agent involved in any discussions with the municipal council over the issue.

"We are quite surprised to hear of the decision through newspaper reports," Allen told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from his office at the amusement park.

An official of the local agent for Chipperfields, who refused to be identified, flatly rejected charges aired in local press reports that the park was being mismanaged. He asserted that the "problem is that while the feasibility study for the project indicated very good profits and that it was highly viable to pay off the loan in dollar terms, the

devaluation of the dinar adversely affected the income in dollar terms."

Chipperfields "will fight all the way" against the council's decision. Allen told the Jordan Times. "How is it possible that a party to a contract takes a unilateral decision to terminate the contract without any discussions with the other party?" he asked. "Unless, of course, they are prepared to pay compensation."

The company's course of action will be determined by a group of its representatives who are expected in Amman next week, Allen said. "We might have a package of lawsuits against the municipal council," he added.

But Mayor Suheimat said the municipal council was acting "well within its rights to revoke the contract." He did not elaborate, and no expert legal opinion was immediately available on the dispute.

According to Allen, the park has suffered a loss of about JD 1.1 million as a result of the devaluation of the dinar and another JD 500,000 as depreciation of the equipment. He asserted that the facility had not suffered any "operational losses" as suggested in some reports.

According to information gathered from sources, officials and businessmen, the issue is closely linked to the \$9 million financing obtained from the Arab Banking Corporation of Bahrain under a guarantee furnished by the Central Bank of Jordan as well as the sharp decline in the value of the dinar which affected the income from the project in dollar terms.

The picture that unfolds in light of some of the key details of the project indicates a sort of shot-gun wedding between the company and the municipal authorities.

The \$9 million turnkey contract for the project was signed between the Jbeiha Municipal Council and Chipperfields in 1985 and was linked to the financing of the project. The contract stipulated that Chipperfields would not only build and install the project but will

also manage the facility for an annual charge of \$350,000 payable in dollars every three months and ensure that the operations would make a minimum level of profits. The management arrangement was valid for the first five years, but could be renewed automatically for another five years or until the municipality repays the financing, which carried a 9.15 per cent annual interest. The agreement was endorsed by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Work on the project was completed in 1987 but it became part of the Greater Amman Municipality when Amman's municipal boundaries were expanded to absorb several other municipalities of the capital's suburbs.

"It was a typical case of the two saddled with each other," commented a businessman close to the affair. "The Greater Amman Municipality inherited the contract along with the project when it absorbed Jbeiha. There was no way it could get rid of the contract since it was part and parcel of the entire project agreement."

Trouble hit the arrangement shortly after the project opened its doors to the public in June 1988, when the municipal council and Chipperfields could not reach a settlement on a payment of JD 562,000 which the company said it was owed as a result of additions and changes in the park over and above the original designs asked for by the municipality. Chipperfields went to court with the issue, and the case is pending.

The company has also filed another case over "non-payment" by the municipal council of its management charges for the last three quarters, the sources said.

According to figures given by the management company, the park has had about 1,400,000 visitors since it was opened. Total revenues, according to the company, amounted to JD 1,780,000. No figures on the actual profits or losses were immediately available.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جريدة يمنية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Good management needed

LACK of sufficient amounts of drinking water and the improper and ineffective water distribution system in Jordan is "the talk of the town" these days. It has to be, given the huge influx of unprecedented numbers of expatriates visiting the Kingdom this hot season, adding to our swelling numbers and need for water.

In expectation of a difficult situation in the summer, the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) last April announced a water distribution programme in the capital and its outlying regions and suburbs. But no sooner had the WAJ started implementing the programme, than it gave it up without giving the public any explanation or an alternative solution.

The Arabic dailies are nowadays littered with reports and columns about the water situation in the Kingdom; and officials were often quoted predicting imminent solutions, but nothing of the kind has yet materialised. Also in the press there are numerous complaints about the improper and unfair distribution of water supplies, with one district reportedly getting amounts of water far in excess of others, and one street where an embassy or a minister's residence is located, enjoying more than enough water for domestic use and for watering gardens at the expense of the thirsty areas of the capital.

It should be pointed out that the government has a direct responsibility to address the situation since indeed there are certain districts located within the perimeters of Amman which get supplies once every two weeks and in very limited quantities. The least it could do is to ensure a fair distribution of water, and to announce it for everybody to hear and read and even discuss in public.

It is a better idea still to propose that the government return to WAJ's original programme and ensure its implementation. We urge the government to introduce a system — followed in many other countries — by which unnecessary excessive use of water is discouraged or, in some cases, even banned. True, the government has big problems as far as water supplies are concerned, but it is equally true that a problem, where it exists, can only be tackled by good management, fair-mindedness and objectivity.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Parliament resumes its sessions Wednesday following a break during which it was hoped that the deputies took ample time to consider the question of unemployment which is on the agenda, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. Parliament is not only required to define the problem, but rather to find solutions because it is the duty of the legislative authority to put forth solutions to the executive authority to implement, the paper noted. To determine the dimension of the unemployment problem in Jordan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday called at the Labour Ministry and saw figures and facts to prepare for the coming discussions, said the paper. According to the available figures, Jordan has more than 190,000 jobs which are now taken over by non-Jordanian workers, of whom only 40,000 are being employed legally, the paper pointed out. It said that one should not forget that responsibility of law violations does not fall on the workers, but rather on those who employ them. Let us hope that the Parliament deputies will provide the solutions for the problem and follow up the question of illegal employment of non-Jordanians and the employers exploitation of these workers, the paper added. It urged the deputies to close all gaps and loopholes in the present labour law, and to follow endeavours and efforts sincerely for the sake of ridding the country of this chronic problem.

Commenting on the unemployment problem, columnist Tareq Masarweh says one cannot blame the problem squarely on the government, but rather on the lack of private sector's investments in the Kingdom. All the government can do is provide incentives for the investors and a democratic atmosphere and stability and that the government has already made available, says the writer. Furthermore, the government has brought about stability to the Jordanian currency in a bid to attract foreign investors and create an opportune climate for investments, Masarweh points out. He regrets that rich class investments were either in building villas, and purchasing shares in successful companies, while leaving most of their capital abroad. The writer calls on the rich to make use of the present suitable atmosphere and invest in projects that can employ more job seekers in the Kingdom and so help end the unemployment problem. The government should not be asked to pour huge investments into schemes, since everyone realises the volume of the state's budget and the limited means of the country, says the writer. Although the government has certain responsibilities, he adds, the question of unemployment is far from being solved with a magic wand.

Sawt Al Shaab daily Wednesday tackled the question of Jewish immigration to Palestine from Ethiopia. It reminded its readers of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's plans to help the Jews gather in Addis Ababa prior to their transportation to occupied Palestine. The paper also reminded the readers of a call issued by the Ethiopian president to the African Summit for the establishment of peace in the Horn of Africa, while at the same time he plans to ship thousands of Jews to occupied Palestine to help Israel pursue expansionist goals in another part of the world. The paper said that the immigration danger can not be solved simply through diplomatic representations and protests, but rather through joint Arab action. It said the Arabs can start now by opening a serious dialogue among the confrontation states about the most proper course to be followed before it is too late.

We know there are problems now give us realistic solutions

By Khaled Mahadin

The following column was translated from Al-Ra'i Arabic daily.

THE Eid Al Adha holiday offered me a very good chance for reading. I read five books and a large collection of articles, studies and reports that had been published in newspapers and magazines. I am in the habit of cutting out from publications what I believe is worth reading and wait for the suitable opportunity to read them.

I would like to refer in particular to my readings of Parliament members' speeches tackling the question of unemployment as published in the newspapers or released in photo copies to the press. I admit that it took me nearly three days to finish reading the whole stuff and I was overwhelmed with a mixed feeling of astonishment, anger, admiration, despair and indignation when the reading came to an end.

The tedious and long hours

it took me to read the articles placed me face to face with a reality which I found difficult to debate or discuss. Had there been a foreign observer at the Parliament session, or had he read this volume of speeches on the issue of unemployment, he would come to the inevitable conclusion that Jordan has more than 100,000 vacant positions in government offices and more than JD 500 million in surplus, but it persists in refusing to fill the vacancies, hence creating the unemployment problem in the Kingdom. Is the situation really so? Of course the answer is a very big NO.

I had hoped that I was a daily columnist in a newspaper so as to daily vent my suppressed feelings. I also wished that the local press would realise the immense and noble mission it should be assuming in the democratic atmosphere. Only

the press has the power to hold the balance — which is still lacking — between the executive authority represented in the government and the legislative authority represented in the Lower House of Parliament. It is regrettable to say that the press has so far failed to assume its required role, which should help put an end to deputies' lengthy and tedious election — oriented speeches and the government's constant silence vis-a-vis these speeches in Parliament.

Our missed reading the speech about the unemployment problem, I asked a Parliament member about the prime minister's reaction to them and he said: The prime minister's reply was silence and smoking.

Then I said to myself: Had I been in the prime minister's shoes, I would have done the same thing, simply because the prime minister was hoping to

receive solutions and proposals for solving the unemployment problem, but instead he was surprised to hear the majority of the deputies delivering statements and speeches without any proposals and not a single solution. Their speeches did not win the admiration of any one nor did they win Jordanian citizens' support.

We are facing an unemployment problem and this is a stark reality. But merely talking about it, can by no means change the facts. Most of the deputies were satisfied by talking about the problem and none of them thought that they were not revealing a secret, nor were they coming up with something of which the public was not aware.

Indeed the deputies speeches manifested their desire to merely spurn the government. This could be acceptable in the absence of democracy, but it can by no means

be acceptable in an atmosphere of democracy, which makes it incumbent on the deputies to bring forth solutions to the problem and not to merely announce its presence.

The parliament resumed discussions of the unemployment problem yesterday. We only hope that they would not read out printed speeches considered as electoral statements which can please no one. I particularly mention this, because I have learnt that a number of deputies have already prepared a reply to the government statement about a solution for the unemployment problem; even before the chance was given to Labour Minister Qassem Obesidat to deliver at the session. This attitude can only mean that blaming the government does not require ingenuity. What indeed requires genius work, is finding solutions for the problem, because this is the

real task of the legislative authority which must look into problems and formulate proper solutions with great awareness and objectivity and not with electoral statements.

I greet those deputies who spoke about the unemployment problem without offering any solutions, and those who spoke about it without coming up with any fresh information. Greetings go to the prime minister who resorted to silence and smoking. We hope that Parliament deputies will remember that they can decide on solutions and not merely talk about the problem.

Blaming the government used to be the favourite game of journalists, and it had yielded some fruit. But Parliament members are expected to attain much greater achievements rather than spurning the government. We really do not want to see many people despairing off of democracy.

Houston summit sees new era in Europe

HOUSTON (R) — The following is the political declaration issued on Tuesday by G-7 leaders at their summit meeting in Houston.

1. We, the leaders of our seven countries and the representatives of the European Community, salute the men and women around the world whose courage and wisdom have inspired and brought about the historic advances of democracy we have witnessed over the past year. As we enter the final decade of this century, which we intend should be a decade of democracy, we reiterate our commitment to support the strengthening of democracy, human rights, and economic reconstruction and development through market-oriented economies. We emphasise the important opportunity provided in this forum for representatives from Europe, Japan, and North America to discuss critical challenges of the coming years.

2. Europe is at the dawn of a new era. We welcome enthusiastically the profound and historic changes sweeping the continent. The London declaration on a transformed North Atlantic alliance provides a new basis for cooperation among former adversaries in building a stable, secure, and peaceful Europe. We are determined to seize all opportunities to achieve a Europe whole and free and recognise the European Community's contribution to that effort. We applaud the unification of Germany, which is a tangible expression of mankind's inalienable right to self-determination and a major contribution to stability in Europe.

We welcome the replacement of repressive regimes in Central and Eastern Europe by governments freely chosen by their peoples. We applaud the introduction of the rule of law and the freedoms that are the bedrock of a democratic state. We urge Romania, following recent events, to adhere to the positive trend taking place in other countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

3. We welcome the intention of the Soviet Union to move toward a democratic political system, as well as Soviet attempts to reform their economy along market principles. We commit ourselves to working with the Soviet Union to assist its efforts to create an open society, a pluralistic democracy, and a market-oriented economy. Such changes will enable the Soviet Union to fulfil its responsibilities in the community of nations founded on these principles. We are heartened by indications that a constructive dialogue is underway between the Soviet government and the Baltic states, and we urge all sides to continue this dialogue in a democratic spirit.

4. The advance of democracy accompanied by market-oriented economic reforms is not just a European phenomenon. Since we last met, we have witnessed the spread of democratic values in many parts of the world.

In Asia, there are encouraging signs of new political openness in Mongolia and Nepal. In the Philippines, the government continues to engage in courageous efforts to consolidate democracy.

We acknowledge some of the recent developments in China, but believe that the prospects for closer cooperation will be enhanced by renewed political and economic reform, particularly in the field of human rights. We agree to maintain the measures put into place at last year's summit, as modified over the course of this year. We will keep them under review for future adjustment.

ments to respond to further positive developments in China. For example, in addition to existing lending to most basic human needs, we will explore whether there are other World Bank loans that would contribute to reform of the Chinese economy, especially loans that would address environmental concerns.

5. In Africa, we hope that Namibia's attainment of independence and democracy will be a positive example for freedom, pluralism, and market-oriented economic reform throughout the continent. We also welcome the positive developments that have taken place in South Africa, especially the launching of talks between the government and representatives of the black majority. We hope this will lead to a peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy and the complete dismantlement of the apartheid system. We will continue to support this process and we call on all parties to refrain from violence or its advocacy.

6. In Latin America, we welcome the re-establishment of freedom and democracy in Chile. We applaud the recent fair and free elections in Nicaragua, as well as progress on the path to peace through dialogue in El Salvador and Guatemala. We encourage the efforts of the Panamanian government to re-establish democracy and the rule of law. We note with satisfaction the positive evolution in Haiti. We hope that Cuba will take steps to join the democratic trend in the rest of Latin America.

7. While we applaud the reduction of ideological conflicts that have divided much of the world since the end of the second world war, we note with deep concern the reemergence of intolerance affecting ethnic and religious groups. We agree that such intolerance can lead to conflicts, which can threaten fundamental human rights, as well as political and economic development.

8. We reaffirm our commitment to the fundamental principles we seek to realise in our own societies, and we underscore that political and economic freedoms are closely linked and mutually reinforcing. Each of us stands ready to help in practical ways those countries that choose freedom, through the provision of constitutional, legal, and economic know-how and through economic assistance, as appropriate.

In drawing from our different constitutional and historical experiences, we stand ready, individually and jointly in relevant fora, to:

- Assist in the drafting of laws, including bills of rights and civil, criminal, and economic framework laws.
- Advise in the fostering of independent media.
- Establish training programmes in government, management, and technical fields.
- Develop and expand people-to-people contacts and exchange programmes to help diffuse understanding and knowledge.

In the same spirit, the recent G-24 ministerial agreed to extend its assistance in Central and Eastern Europe in parallel with progress in political and economic reform.

We agree the challenge facing the industrialised democracies is to continue the effort already underway in Europe while expanding efforts to support political reform and economic development in other parts of the world. We call on our people and the people of other democracies to join in this great endeavour.

Preoccupations with changes will not cloud Bonn's vision of Middle East

The following is the full text of the Speech delivered by Herr Helmut Schaefer, Minister of State in the Federal Foreign Office, at a farewell luncheon in honour of His Excellency Mr. Fawaz Sharaf, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Bonn July 10, 1990).

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you all here today. We deeply regret that you, Excellency, are leaving Bonn. We have been very lucky that you have held the post of Jordanian Ambassador for an unusually long period, that is, since November 1981. It is a pleasure for me to tell you that the Federal Government has always highly appreciated your counsel in discussions with you. You have represented the interests of your country in a worthy manner and have at the same time followed and interpreted the developments in the Federal Republic of Germany with great understanding. You will be leaving behind good friends in Germany.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you most sincerely for your friendly, positive attitude towards the process of German unification over the last few weeks and months.

Relations between our two countries have traditionally been excellent. This is due to a large extent to your efforts. I need only recall the many consultations at the highest level. Particularly the visit by President Richard von Weizsäcker to Amman in 1985 and the visits by King Hussein to Bonn in 1987 and 1988. Your good relations in both countries

and your wide experience played a major part in the success of these visits. Moreover, I recall with great pleasure my own last visit to Jordan almost two years ago, when I had the opportunity to speak with King Hussein as well as all senior government representatives, and to inform myself about the progress and problems of your country.

In addition to these political consultations, our economic cooperation, too, is an important element of German-Jordanian relations. We will make great efforts to maintain the present level and intensity of our contacts during the coming years.

We admired the way in which your government developed and began implementing a programme of political and economic reform, leading to the free elections to the Jordanian parliament held in November 1989. Through these reforms, your country has made a major contribution to the process of democratisation in your region. I hope that your government will succeed in maintaining political and social peace in Jordan, despite the current problems due to the stalemate in the Middle East peace process.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For all of us, the question of

people in the Middle East is at the top of the political agenda. I am deeply concerned to see that tension is increasing in this area, with which we have many close links. Recent incidents have once again underlined the unacceptability of the status quo in the occupied territories in the long term. Those who seek to achieve political aims through violence instead of by peaceful means must not be allowed to gain the upper hand. Rather, Israel must as soon as possible declare its willingness to enter into political dialogue, in which the Palestinians and their chosen representatives, as the main party concerned, must participate. Such a dialogue could lead to a comprehensive, fair and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Even at a time great demands are being made on our political resources due to the strenuous efforts to complete German unification in the near future, the Federal Government will not lose sight of the Middle East conflict. We will use our membership of the European Community, and other fora to do our utmost to support meaningful negotiations between Israel, its neighbours and the recognised representatives of the Palestinian people, and to foster peace based on the right to a secure existence, recognised borders and self-determination. Together with our European partners, we reaffirmed our position only recently at the European Council in Dublin on June 26, 1990. In our view, the

United Nations, too, can play an important part in the present situation by protecting the people in the occupied territories.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A major achievement of our joint policy is the resumption of the European-Arab dialogue. You will recall that at the Paris Conference of Dec. 22, 1989, the Foreign Ministers of the European and Arab states succeeded in overcoming the standstill in the European-Arab dialogue which was reached in 1983. The Paris reforms proved their worth for the first time at the recent 15th meeting of the General Committee in Dublin on June 18, 1990. The Conference achieved concrete results in the areas of economic, technical, cultural and cultural cooperation between our regions. We warmly welcome these results, for we have always considered the European-Arab dialogue to be an important forum for consultation and cooperation between Europeans and Arabs in all spheres. The resumption of this dialogue is a clear sign of our firm intention to develop and further extend our cooperation with our Arab friends.

Excellency,

I hope that on leaving your post you will carry with you fond memories of your time in Bonn. I should like to thank you most warmly for your efforts in the service of Jordanian-German relations, and wish you all the very best for the future.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Jordan Times

WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

July 12, 1990 A

New film seeks to promote Jordan's movie industry

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new movie is being shot on location in Jordan, the first of what its makers describe as five sketches that are going to be combined in one long movie. Each sketch deals with the economic and social life in Jordan. The first movie is based on a poem written by Moussa Hawamdeh entitled *Abdul Khaleq*. "It deals with the phenomenon of multiple marriages, in an economically poor society, and the views of the Eastern men towards Eastern women," said Hassan Abu Ganimeh, the movie's director.

"We still have a long way to go before we can compete with the Arab, especially the Egyptian, movie industry," Abu Ganimeh said, referring to the lack of funds and necessary equipment for the movie. "The budget for each sketch is JD 1,500 and we are using only one 35-millimetre camera," added Abu Ganimeh, president of the Jordan Cine Club and an independent movie critic.

According to Abu Ganimeh, some of the equipment was presented to the Jordan Cine Club by Radi Alkhas, director general of Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, in answer to an article published six months

ago in *Al Ra'i* by the poet Haidar Mahmoud wondering why these equipment are not given to the right people instead of remaining unused.

Moussa Hawamdeh, the creator of *Abdul Khaleq*, plays the lead in the movie. "I liked my character a lot because when I wrote the poem, I had many ideas and through my character I was able to portray them," Hawamdeh said.

The female roles are played by new actresses. Samia Assaad plays the role of *Abdul Khaleq's* first wife, who after serving him and raising his children, is divorced. "My aim was to show that women today are still facing this kind of abuse by

their husbands," Assaad said.

The other female actress, Fadwa Al Said, plays the role of the pretty young secretary whom *Abdul Khaleq* weds after divorcing his wife. Both actresses said they enjoyed acting but were reluctant to do it again. "Our society is still very judgmental in its acceptance to working women," said Said.

The second movie is entitled *Dufflah*, directed by Hayel Ajlouni. In this movie the woman portrays both Jordan and the Arab World, and finds herself threatened by the present but fights relentlessly for a better future. Filming for this movie will start in a few days.

The third movie *The Last Candle*, is written and directed by Ramadan Al Dawashqeh. It is a very symbolic movie, that takes place in a movie theatre. During the show the electricity goes off and one candle is used to light the theatre. While people wait the electricity, to go back on, they start sharing stories about their lives that shows the contradiction between light and darkness.

"It is a very symbolic movie because when the electricity goes off in the theatre, its as if hope in the world is also gone," Dawashqeh said.

The fourth movie, *I Want to Smile*, is directed by Bilal Mirzah. It is a story of a Jordanian who finds himself unable to smile, because of the seriousness of the society he lives in. He decides to



Director Hassan Abu Ganimeh (third from left) checks the lighting before shooting a scene from *Abdul Khaleq*

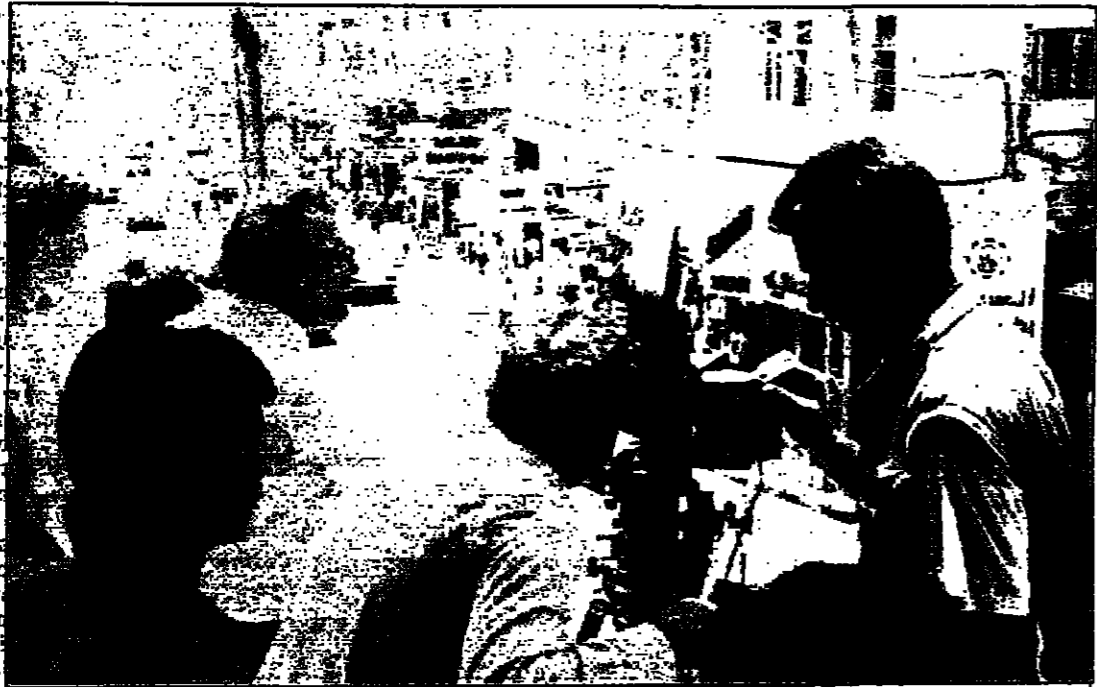
teach his son the importance and the need to smile but unfortunately he approaches the subject with seriousness.

The fifth movie, *Cemetery*, is written by Moussa Al Hawamdeh. It is a story of a young man who wants to bury his father but does not have enough money, so he decides to work in the cemetery in order to save some money and get his father's body out of the hospital.

The irony in this movie is that the young man's salary

per day is less than the daily cost of the hospital's refrigerator where his father's body is kept and that is why he cannot get it out.

Each of the five sketches will be around twenty minutes long. "We hope that we will finish filming by the end of this year," Abu Ganimeh said. The whole movie will be shown in theatres throughout Jordan and the Arab World in an effort "to promote the Jordanian movie industry," he added.



Abu Ganimeh and his team shoot a scene in downtown Amman

Poles are top of the poles in Midwest

By John Rice
The Associated Press

AMMAN — The lights of Damascus twinkled through the windows of a French night club. British businessmen sipped Danish beer poured by Palestinian waiters. A singer warbled her way through *Georgia On My Mind*.

The performer was Polish, of course. Poles may be struggling with economic troubles at home, but in the Middle East, musicians from the Eastern European nation are in high demand.

They seem to be everywhere: Playing Scottish music at a Burns Night Dinner in Jordan; hammering out rock

favourites in Dubai saloons; playing Chopin in Syrian piano bars.

In a Kuwait hotel steakhouse, a Polish band romped through an American classic: "The stars at night are shining bright, deep in the heart of Texas."

The singer's accent was closer to Warsaw than west Texas. But the fiddle player could toss a bow with the best.

Polish entertainers have acquired the sort of reputation for low cost and high quality that Polish industry is striving to win.

"We're good ... and we're not too expensive," said Beata Lewtak, hired to sing with a Jordanian band at an Amman hotel.

Robert Lillis, assistant

general manager of Amman's Intercontinental Hotel, agreed.

"It's cheaper for us to hire Poles than to hire other European or American musicians," he said.

"We know what we're getting with the Poles," he said. "The standard of music and the range of music are excellent."

This victory on the musical free market is a legacy of Poland's crumbling Socialist system. Lewtan and most other Polish musicians are graduates of special music academies, which give intensive training grounded in the classics.

Many musicians began playing jazz and rock outside class, often to the disapproval

of their elders.

"In the '60s, jazz was forbidden in Poland," said Tadeusz Toczyski, who played recently at the Meridien Hotel in Damascus.

But now schools have begun to teach the new styles.

"I like jazz best," said Tadeusz Kasprok, whose Veto band played at Amman's International. "But when I'm playing with our electronic automatic drummer, it's impossible."

Many touring bands find themselves playing everything from light classical music to disco to regional songs.

"This kind of job is the most difficult because you have to be good enough to play any kind of music they want," said Toczyski from

Krakow.

"In Poland you can find a lot of good musicians, for many years, the main reason that Polish musicians went out was to make the money to buy electronic instruments," Toczyski said.

Kasprok and his band rely heavily on costly foreign instruments such as wetboards and synthesizers. He has travelled off and on for almost a decade.

"Nobody in Poland can afford such equipment," said Kasprok, who plays guitar, trombone and piano.

Kasprok, his vocalist wife Anna and Hetboardist Andryej Niesior, all from Lublin, played in Finland, Hungary and Yugoslavia before coming to Jordan.

But many musicians said they were worried by hardships at home. Poland ended 40 years of Communist Party rule last year, the new government has implemented market reforms that have fuelled unemployment and inflation.

"What has changed for us is only the prices," Lewtak said. "Before, I had a lot of money. Now, I have nothing."

She also said working abroad brought its own hardships.

"I have my husband, my daughter at home. All the time I think of them," she said.

"In time," Kasprok said, "maybe work will be good for us in Poland."

World's smallest theatre is back on the road

By Giles Elgood
Reuters

LONDON — Pulling in a full house is never a problem for Marcel Steiner, the owner, producer and star of "the smallest theatre in the world." It holds an audience of two.

The theatre, about the size of a large wardrobe, is mounted on a sidecar attached to a temperamental Russian motorbike.

Steiner once simulated the storm scene in *The Tempest* by reviving up the motorbike and driving it round in circles with the audience hanging on for dear life inside.

It was forced off the road

two years ago by financial problems and a cracked drive shaft but thanks to a sponsorship deal and a mechanical overhaul, Steiner is back next month with an epic production called *The Private Lives of Henry VIII*.

The inside of the theatre is decorated with marble patterned wallpaper and the outside has classical columns and doors marked "box office," "stalls," "stage door" and "fire exit."

It may be small but Steiner is adamant that his audience will get their money's worth. "We do it properly, the whole bit. Lots of scenery, plenty of props, sound and

lighting effects," he said in an interview.

His new production is loosely based on the 1933 Alexander Korda film *The Private Lives of Henry VIII*. It will be staged at the southern English seaside resort of Margate, where his new Dutch sponsors own the town hall.

Steiner is taking Charles Laughton's role as the much-married Tudor monarch and two other members of the cast, Geraldine and Maureen Marsh, will each play three of his six wives.

Steiner is experimenting with an inflatable costume which can be pumped up to

show Henry's increasing obesity.

"People think I'm eccentric," he said. "But I'm just interested in comic concepts."

"The smallest theatre in the world" dates back about 20 years.

Steiner fell in love with and bought an ancient motorbike with a huge sidecar attached.

A fellow actor said: "You could build a theatre in that thing." A week later it was finished.

"It was only meant as a joke originally but it just kept going. It became an institution."

Over the years Steiner has produced a string of classic

30-minute shows including *The Guns of Navarone*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Cinderella*.

"We nearly did *West Side Story*, but I'm not a good enough singer," he said.

The *Tempest* was staged in the car park of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon while the full version of the play was being put on inside.

Another hit, *The decline and Fall of the Third Reich*, covered World War II in its entirety and featured the black American athlete Jesse Owens winning the gold medal for the long jump at the

1936 Berlin Olympic Games. The actor playing Owens would start his run-up outside and jump straight into the theatre on to a small bed of sand on the floor of the tiny stage — an operation requiring fairly careful rehearsal in order to avoid some nasty injuries.

The tiny theatre has been rebuilt several times and is now on its fifth motorbike.

He has played to a range of audiences including a 113 kilo man who tipped the whole thing over at a 45-degree angle and the Irish playwright Samuel Beckett.

"Small, isn't it?" was the dramatist's verdict.

GHOSTBUSTERS, HOT DOGS AND FAREWELLS:

The residence and the garden were transformed into something of a Rambo theatre and a cowboy ranch for the occasion. The outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth wore a big (American?) hat to receive his guests for a July 9 reception held to mark American Independence Day and to say goodbye to his friends and acquaintances. Mrs. Suddarth found a stool to sit on while several hundred invitees filed past her and her decorated husband heading directly towards the hot dog stand at the other end of the garden. The long guest list included all kinds of people from many walks of life. But it basically boiled down to two categories: Those who made it and those who did not. Among the latter were many members of both houses of parliament who boycotted the event citing what many of them called "U.S. terrible policies in the area." As to the official turnout... well, it was not exactly strong either. Many Jordanian officials who knew and liked the U.S. envoy and his charming wife would have gone to the reception to say "goodbye" and "happy independence," but there were some who were simply unable to attend, and yet others who simply could not bring themselves to turn up under the current circumstances of strained Arab-U.S. relations. Doubtless Mr. and Mrs. Suddarth would have liked everybody to show up, the extra congestion notwithstanding of course. Be that as it may, the ambassador has other concerns that should keep his mind off the area's troubles for a while. He has been appointed a "foreign service inspector" — not only for the Middle East but with world wide responsibility — starting somewhere in Latin American this fall. Politics apart, we wish the couple good health and good luck.

BOYCOTTS AND BOUQUETS: Among those MPS who boycotted the American ambassador's 4th of July reception but did not boycott the U.S. per se was Islamist Deputy Yusef Al Athem (Ma'an). Arabic newspapers earlier this week carried reports about the deputy coming back from a tour of the U.S., but they made sure to mention that Athem's visit came in response to an invitation from Arab-Islamic organisations. In his tour, the deputy visited states such as Chicago, Michigan and New York and delivered lectures and participated in seminars "which touched upon the atmosphere of the existing democratisation process and the hoped-for climate of Shura and freedoms that the Islamic movement aspires to in Jordan," according to the reports. Mr. Athem was still in the U.S. when the Muslim Brotherhood, to which he belongs, issued its call to boycott all American goods and services on the first day of Eid Al Adha. It was not immediately clear therefore whether the boycott call would necessarily include a ban on all visits by the world-be ostracising group to the U.S. as well.

OVERHEARD: At a garden reception this past week, an ex-minister, an ambassador, a senior official of an Islamic foundation and a journalist stood together for a chat. The subject was the Jordan Times' editorial (July 9) which launched a stinging attack against calls for cancelling the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts. "I informed at least five people about it (the editorial)," said the official from the Islamic foundation. "It's strange how often I'm getting to give out the name of the Jordan Times as my source of information," he told the others, amongst them the Jordan Times journalist. "I've just read (the editorial) out aloud to somebody over the phone," said the ambassador. "You guys are doing wonders with this kind of material." The former minister concurred. "I can't believe that some ministers don't include the Jordan Times in their media digest," he said. "It seems their lacking diet of the press is also affecting their performance," he went on... citing examples.

FOOTBALL SCHIZOPHRENIA: Now that the 1990 Mondiale (World Cup) is over, some of us can take comfort from the fact and hope to go back to normal life again. Still, even many of those who were terribly enjoying the tournament feel happy today that it is all over, simply because they do not have to contend with Jordan Television's coverage of the event any more. It all goes back to the semi-finals when JTV would interrupt its live coverage of the matches in order to present the 8 o'clock news on time. Most viewers would immediately switch to Syrian or Israeli television stations to continue watching the aired match, missing the 8 o'clock broadcast in the process. They did not like what they had to do at all, but JTV ineptness was simply too overpowering for their taste. "Why couldn't they wait until after the match had ended," you heard them screaming and complaining to no avail. "At least we all can now watch our favourite JTV news programme without being too schizophrenic."

FEASTS AND FETES: A couple of days ago, one of Jordan's Arabic dailies published a front page story of a family from Irbid donating the cost of their son's wedding dinner to the Palestinian intifada. The amount was JD 1600. Earlier, an Islamist Member of Parliament (Laith Shbeilat) married off his daughter to the son of an Upper House of Parliament member (Akram Zaiter). The two families too decided to do away with the wedding festivities, and donate the saved expenses towards support of the uprising. Although the Shbeilat-Zaiter fete was original and much talked about in many of Amman's circles, Iraqi — rather than Jordanian — newspapers were the first to publish it. Better late than never. Now, stories of this importance can get space in our newspapers, and the good deeds of the past may not be forgotten.

REPRINTED FOR FREE: A full-time Arab writer and author, with excellent command of Arabic and experience with writing and reading poetry is wanted to write a book about a renowned and well known Arab Personality. The author must be able to live with this personality for a year and travel to Europe, the United States and any Arab country. Please send all information and qualifications to the following address: Jordan - Amman - P.O. Box 926231 (within a week). All applications will be handled with utmost secrecy. — An ad in the *Al Ra'i* daily newspaper.

Norman Murad

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 12

8:30 A Different World
Robin renews his love for "Denise" and invites her out to spend an evening with him, Japanese style.

9:10 Dolphin Cove

During Mike's absence, Trent tried to retrieve the golden sword but fails and the two Dolphins disappear. Kate in the end manages to contact them and brings them back.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week
Little White Lies

A doctor and a cop meet on a plane bound for Rome; they both conceal their true identities after falling in love. But in the end they find out all about themselves and remain in love.

Friday, July 13

8:30 Didi's Comedy Show

Didi is a private detective; his task is to expose the love affair of his client's wife. Success here depends on Didi's intelligence.

9:10 Midnight Caller

10:00 News in English

10:20 Anything more would be Greedy

The fates of the three friends cross again. Dennis is now in politics. Peter establishes his own computer business and comes up with an important invention and Mark sets his eyes on the invention, but Anna is not obvious to this.

Saturday, July 14

8:30 Joint Account

When the general manager decides to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the French Revolution, at the party, David believes he is getting a new job. Instead his wife receives a promotion...how lucky can you get?

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music



Jack Killian (Gary Cole) is introduced to the airwaves by Wendy King (Wendy Kilbourne) Friday at 9:10 on JTV Channel 2

Chile where her family was killed at the hand of the ruthless doctor dictator. It takes Hunter a long time to solve this case.

Monday, July 16

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Larry and Balki are now reporters for Chicago Chronicle. Their mission impossible is to conduct an interview with a famous football player lying injured in the hospital... and surprisingly enough they manage to do it.

9:10 Murder She Wrote
If it's Thursday

A policeman's wife is found dead. Her husband becomes a suspect and is suspended from work. Jessica actively investigates the case and finds that a winning lottery ticket motivated the killer.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Action in the North Atlantic

A German submarine sinks an American oil tanker. Captain Steven and John are saved. John gets married and rejoins captain Steven who is given command of a military escort Convoy ship.

Tuesday, July 17

8:30 Golden Girls

A Piece of Cake

Two of our heroines are busy preparing a surprise birthday party for Blanche, that's when the good old fond memories hit them hard.

9:10 Heart of the High Country

Cecil, a young English girl, emigrates to New Zealand in a new land. After a rape, pregnancy, and enforced marriage, comes a tragic accident.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

11:10 Police Squad
Ring of Fear

A gang of professional gamblers are in the business of running illegal boxing contests and they kill to protect their business. The police resort to secrecy in their investigation before they bust the gang.

Wednesday, July 18

8:30 You Rang M'Lord

Mother, who is always in the habit of giving away her property to others, decides to grant the butler's daughter some share of property, that's when hell breaks loose. Mother changes her mind but give it to someone else.

9:10 Documentary
My Best Friend is a Computer

For kids to have a computer robot machine is definitely a beneficial advantage, but can also be harmful for them too. This documentary discuss the pros and cons of possessing computer for children in the house.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Summer's Lease
Where the Water Goes

Molly in this episode begins to feel that the mystery of everything happening is moved by an invisible hand. So the tries hard to rationalise events only to find more mystery.

The Coffee Peddler

By E. YAGHI

A BRONZED, middle-aged man daily stands guarding his steaming coffee cart. His hair line has receded, leaving a tuft of polished dark hair in the middle of his taut forehead. His brows, stretching in consternation, are arched at passersby. His eyes are sharp, small and dark, blending in with the landscape of his short, stocky frame. On the mountain in Amman where he lives, he has become an inconspicuous landmark much as a traffic light or street sign. He constantly gulps down his homemade black coffee and puffs nervously on a continual chain of cigarettes as if in a fog of desperation he might erase his misery and his overpowering burden.

Nearby in a wheelchair, on the mountain circle, crouched in a slump, sits his physically handicapped and mentally retarded daughter. Outdoors she is usually silent, but when frustrated at home, she roars in anger at the pain of failing to grope in her small, dark world. The peddler's daughter mirrors her father's features and is a product of a disastrous marriage to his cousin which resulted in two of six children becoming mentally retarded and physically handicapped.

The peddler sells hot coffee for a living. He is the sole supporter of seven and a caretaker of his married daughter and her three children in the absence of her husband. The peddler's home is a

rented semi-basement apartment where gloom and darkness permeate the rooms.

As it is to be expected, the peddler is often nervous and shows commands to his children who struggle to brew his coffee, keep his house clean and retarded daughters cared for. The peddler's wife is also a reflection of her husband. Her features are strikingly similar, her frame short, but even heavier. Her skin is in contrast, protected from the roughness of sun and wind, yet her face is harsh and drawn in sadness.

The peddler's only son helps his father sell coffee before and after school. Already, weather and hardship have shown on his young face. He has little chance to study or just be a boy like other boys his age. Surprisingly, he possesses a remarkable talent for drums. Whenever he can steal a cherished moment, he madly heads for empty pots and pans and drums his heart out, drowning his hidden shame of the family weakness in a nightmare of sound.

Although the coffee peddler is often brusque and bumpy in manner, his windblown stature holds a soft spot for his toddling granddaughter, or he takes time out to help a young school child cross the street, or watch the kind crippled wheel repairman's shop until he returns. The coffee peddler is an enemy to none, a friend to all.

Meanwhile, bent over huge Arabic coffee pots, the peddler waits, watches, listens. He is a spectator in a theatre of life, waiting for his dramatic role to improve, yet thankful for his blessings as he pushes his wares through the streets of Amman, rain or snow, heat or cold, bringing his customers a sip of his hot fare and a story or two.

Arthur Miller's After the Fall, shakes off the Monroe ghost

by Matt Wolf

Associated Press

LONDON — Arthur Miller's "After the Fall," is a play haunted by a ghost which its London premiere may exorcise for good. This work is about more, say the people behind it, than the tragic life of Marilyn Monroe.

"The play is seen as Miller excusing himself for Monroe's death, and it didn't seem to me to be about that at all," said director Michael Blakemore, whose staging opened June 20 at the Royal National Theatre's small Cottesloe Auditorium.

Miller was the actress' third husband, from 1956 to 1960. She was 36 when she died of an overdose of sleeping pills in August, 1962.

Two years later, After the Fall, opened to harsh notices but good business at New York's Lincoln Centre. In the play, the Monroe surrogate — a singer named Maggie — also dies of an overdose. This traumatizes the play's main character, the liberal Jewish lawyer Quentin whose some saw as Miller's alter ego.

In London, James Lauren-

son plays Quentin, whose private anguish is linked to the larger historical atrocities of McCarthyism and, especially, the holocaust.

Josephine Simon, a black actress from Leicester in the English Midlands, plays Quentin's doomed wife Maggie in a casting coup that she and Blakemore hope will freshly illuminate the play.

"I wanted to rob the play of its associations with Marilyn," the 62-year-old Blakemore said of his decision to cast Simon, the willowy actress best known for her role as Dr. Ramphel in the film Cry Freedom.

"All other productions sink in a welter of celebrity speculation," said Blakemore. "They just get wrapped up in the gossip: Was this really what the marriage is like? Did he really do that? It's unfair."

Blakemore said the impact of the play was immensely increased with Miss Simon in the role instead of the usual kittenish blonde.

"The sexual charge between them is like Othello," he said. "I was delighted in that it gave one of the most amazing young actresses I've

worked with in a long time a major chance."

Arthur Miller, who will be 75 in October, told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper that he approved the idea, "providing she (Simon) had the talent."

In an interview with the Associated Press early this year, he said he "had hoped enough time has gone by so that people can see what the theme of the play is, rather than the scandal. Maybe now they can judge the play as a play."

Josephine Simon, who is in her 30s, said of her casting: "I didn't want it to be any kind of theatrical device or novelty thing. It had to work as a character."

"We're not overtly saying Maggie is black," she said. "What it means is that one can look to the humanity of the character and see that she's about more than just donning a wig and playing 'Monroe.'"

No rewrites were required.

"I wouldn't have done it if that had been the case," Blakemore said. "Arthur and I have been through the text and we have made certain cuts, certain tiny alterations,

but these are no more or less than one would do in any production."

After the Fall, has sold out its run in the Cottesloe, which has flexible seating for up to 400. It moves Sept. 27 to the National's 890-seat Lyttelton and plays through Dec. 29.

It's one of two Miller plays currently in the National repertoire. His 1953 "The Crucible," opened on May 31 to mixed-to-favourable reviews in the 1160-seat Olivier Auditorium.

Blakemore said he wanted this production to reawaken interest in a play that "has been misjudged for over 20 years." Its origins in Miller's own life are, says its director, honestly earned.

"At the end of the day, your own life is the only touchstone you really have," said Blakemore, who has two hit shows now on Broadway, Lettice and Lovage and City of Angels, and hopes to take After the Fall, on to New York.

"I mean all writers write about the people they know," he said, "and then transform them into something else."

Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Ettenson

NAG, NAG, NAG

By Fran Ragus

ACROSS

- 1 Treat for horses
- 6 Mulligan —
- 10 Blob
- 14 Musical refrain
- 19 A Muse
- 20 Shield border
- 21 Words by Caesar
- 22 Sanctuary
- 23 Allie bob
- 24 Keep on bondage
- 25 Cargo unit
- 26 Legal right
- 28 Lake Geneva resort
- 29 Mongolian mountain range
- 30 Tallet
- 31 Hunkers
- 32 " — Gable" for riding
- 34 Snide laughs
- 35 Inventor from Menlo Park

DOWN

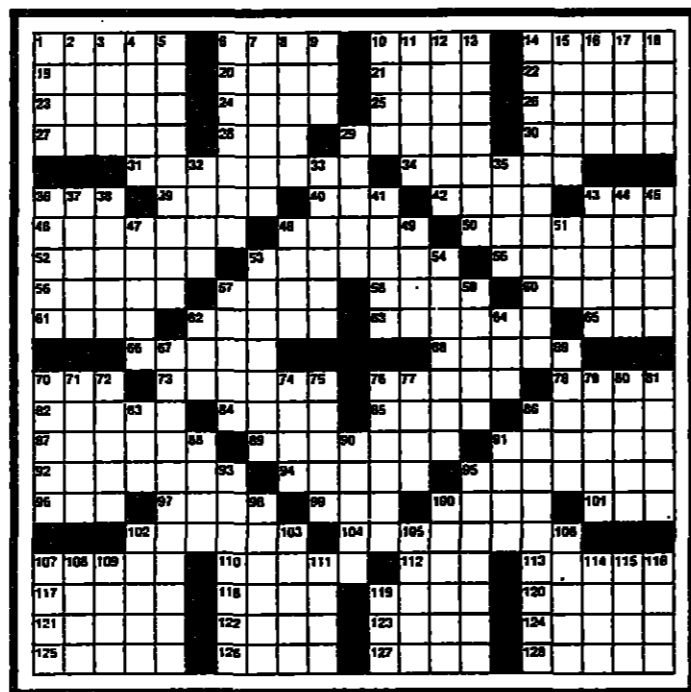
- 1 Brito
- 2 USSR river
- 3 Horse place
- 4 Cartography collection
- 5 Don Quixote's equine
- 6 Consoles
- 7 Horse-drawn vehicle
- 8 Make juttant
- 9 Unite
- 10 Pinocchio term
- 11 "One Day at —"
- 12 Chargers
- 13 Charan Muslim
- 14 Shanti-Palace
- 15 " —" film
- 16 " —" film
- 17 " —" film
- 18 " —" film
- 19 " —" film
- 20 " —" film

ACROSS

- 11 Have being
- 30 Place
- 40 Tax preparer
- 41 abbr.
- 42 Nova e.g.
- 43 Place for
- 44 Experiments
- 45 Foretells
- 46 Deep Intel
- 47 Keep on bondage
- 48 Poets
- 49 Horse man
- 50 Not so shallow
- 51 Dancing beauty
- 52 Chess term
- 53 Chin. money
- 54 Crono's state
- 55 Gaelic
- 56 Break for riding
- 57 Ms. Strich
- 58 A Cole
- 59 Layover rock

DOWN

- 18 Sham visitor
- 19 Horse racing
- 20 Party snacks
- 21 Ames and Azner
- 22 Free of germs
- 23 Dixon's partner
- 24 Selad item
- 25 Tow boat
- 26 Headland
- 27 Court divider
- 28 Running knots
- 29 Isle
- 30 Beg
- 31 Add's son
- 32 Dutch
- 33 Abner
- 34 Pretend
- 35 In any case
- 36 Turning point
- 37 Cheers in Chinua
- 38 Cognizance
- 39 Pique
- 40 Leave in the
- 41 Driving needs
- 42 Singer Frankie



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Needy old miner sold gold nuggets to meet his new budget when he married a young bride.
2. Perhaps people who know how much they are worth usually aren't worth their much. Makes cents?
3. Frankly, much wealth cannot buy back health; but how about a reasonable facsimile? Fine!
4. Swimmers at ocean beach will rarely use community bathhouse.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. Z YXWV UTS RQS WUP ONMWS LVQMY ZU

SXZY LNPRSTONWRX. —By Ed Heddleson

2. TFS TFSFDJ JSJB HPZS SFAZL QKDDQJ

LFPDB JPDKZL FZ DPQQ HFAZDPKZ. —By Earl Ireland

3. SEASYL LION PHIL O RIKIA RONOCSECT

OSK KWOC KWI RYPTIK PEASIKHA. —By Norton Rheades

4. QRBYS QTEG CRSETTG RYATWV R YATVLXL

ATTC RBL WXX TBES VREEW. —By Gordon Miller

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Pinalofas
2. Soaks flux
3. Bible book: abbr.
4. Son of Zeus
5. Stadium cheers
6. Eggs on
7. Dirty look
8. " —" Get a
9. " —" Get a
10. " —" Get a
11. " —" Get a
12. " —" Get a
13. " —" Get a
14. " —" Get a
15. " —" Get a
16. " —" Get a
17. " —" Get a
18. " —" Get a
19. " —" Get a
20. " —" Get a

Health & Medicine

Dietetics in the year 2000

By Jean Chabrier

PARIS — Since the beginning of the century, everything has changed. First of all, not only do we no longer eat in the same way, but we do not eat quite the same food as at the beginning of this century. Secondly, food-processing has become a real industry which is no longer limited to sharing out the produce according to production and needs, but which modifies, transforms, packages and ensures its preservation, etc.. This implies the appearance of numerous technologies, from the chemicals industry to the use of cold.

But all this is going to change even more and the present will very quickly become the past. Research laboratories are making keen efforts in all areas of nutrition with the imperative law of "Flavour, Health, Safety and Service." That is what dietetics will be in the year 2,000.

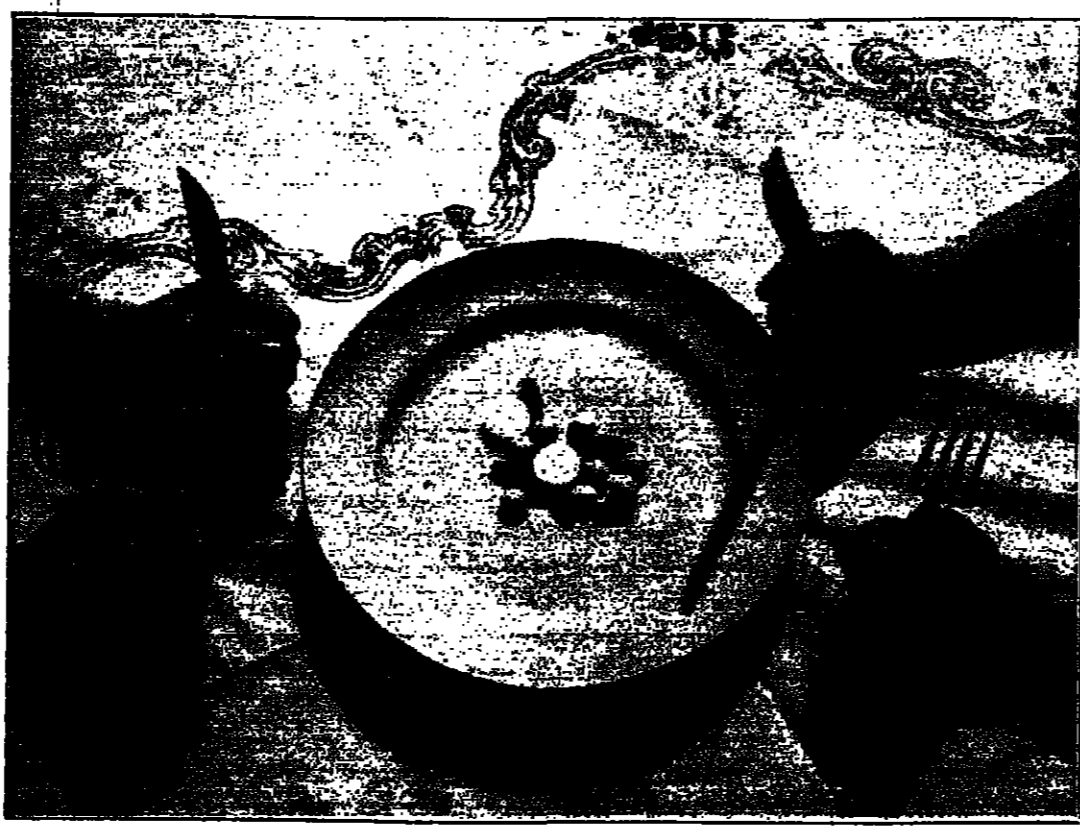
A few figures may fill one with wonder. It is estimated that 50 per cent of the products which will be eaten in ten years, do not yet exist as, at the present time, they are either at the study stage or in the pre-manufacturing stage. The ratio of processed foods continues to increase. From 30 per cent 40 years ago, it amounts to 80 per cent nowadays. The time spent in the kitchen which, at that time, used to be more than 3 hours a day, is no more than 20 to 30 minutes today. The extraordinary boom in frozen foods or other ready-to-use products accounts for 70 per cent of consumption while, at the same time, spending on food has fallen from 33 to 24 per

cent.

Keeping the Flavour ... and saving the taste. All industrial food processing makes it rather tasteless and in order to compensate for this, artificial flavouring is used. The turnover in this sector has increased five-fold in 15 years and is to double in the five coming years. An example can be given with vanilla flavouring. Natural vanilla costs 17,000 French francs a kilo whereas aroma made from wood waste has a flavouring power ten times higher and only costs 50 francs.

Biotechnology has reached the stage where it has "flavour" banks not only varying according to the species, but also according to the variety and the qualities. This area is further completed by taste "keepers", able to trap aromas which then resist various industrial modifications and even cooking (French National Agronomic Research Institute: INRA), while Societe Roquette, world leader in polyols (non-glucose sweeteners), provides betacyclodextrins to various firms. Together with SANOFI, it is working on a cholesterol-free butter which still keeps its taste. Many other astonishing examples could be given.

This butter leads us to the sector of Health. The last decade has seen the arrival of low-fat and sugar-free products. They account for 20 per cent of the present market. It is certain that food tomorrow will be better suited to the needs of each group of individuals: children, sick people, active and inactive people, those practising sports and those who lead a sedentary life, etc., but also according to



The future is dark for the gastronomes.

the needs of each individual and even the climate. The family dish will be replaced by individual dishes.

Safety is also a very important matter. Throughout the food production line, impurities might enter the food and contamination occur. The major culprit is Salmonella Enteritidis, one of the 2,300 species of this family of bacteria. The number of cases a year in France is estimated at nearly 100,000. In 42 per cent of cases, these incidents are due to the cold storage not being respected 38 per cent to there being too long a time lapse between the time of defrosting and the time of consumption.

But fresh produce is not free from such mishaps. Listeria and Yersinia are able to develop between 4 and 10° C, that is to say the usual temperature of refrigerators. In addition to the strictest sterilisation recommendations, wide-scale sterilisation by gamma rays and/or the use of col-

oured markers (as for surgical materials) are being considered in order to guarantee the good preservation of products.

On the subject of service, the very mention of standard, stereotyped food, in a country famous for its gastronomy, obviously makes the French shudder with horror. Thus relations between haute cuisine and the food-processing industry continue to grow. Fifty of the greatest chefs have thus become collaborators of laboratories. They taste the new industrial varieties prepared with vegetables, fruit, fish and meat which have withstood the assault of laboratories. Their verdict is final.

Better still, Joel Rebuchon, in whose restaurant tables have to be booked three months ahead, does the opposite. He prepares a dish using his know-how and sends it to the Fleury-Michon laboratories. There, technicians and nutritionists try to recreate the same dish following in-

dustrial constraints and then send it back to the creator who gives, or refuses to give, the go-ahead. Several trips back and forth are required (at least six months), but it has led to the creation of about twenty new prefabricated dishes in 10 to 25,000 samples. For the time being, this line is reserved for restaurant owners.

At the same time, the "Jacques" company has managed to produce bread (the oldest cooked dish in the world), which stays perfectly fresh for 4 or 5 months, thanks to special packaging, while the "Epigril" company, which had already made crumbless bread for astronauts, has managed to create bread which stays fresh from the organoleptic point of view, for about fifty days, and microbiologically intact for a year, thanks to a packaging process, but also to the bread-making process.

There will soon be new foods on our plates — L'Actualite en France.

Another cold war ends No cure after 44 years of trying

By Jessica Baldwin
The Associated Press

LONDON — Another cold war has ended — not with a bang but a sniffle.

The Common Cold Research Centre has closed, having conceded defeat after 44 years in which thousands of noses were bombarded with viruses in the quest for a cure for the common cold.

Administrator Arthur Amos insists that the 18,000 volunteers who passed through the hospital near Salisbury, 128 kilometres west of London, did not suffer in vain.

"Going back in time, we used to think there was only one cold virus. Now we know there are nearly 200, so there is no chance of finding a vaccine," Amos said. "We've been trying to find a compound that acts on a family of viruses, but we've had no luck."

Some of the centre's discoveries cannot be explained, Amos said. Why, for example, did one-third of volunteers never show any signs of a cold while the others, exposed to the same virus, coughed, sneezed and felt miserable.

"Blood tests at the beginning of the trial and at the end often show changes in anti-

body levels, which means even if it didn't seem like they have a cold, they have a sub-clinical cold," Amos said.

The volunteers received no medication, Amos said, unless they were in extreme discomfort, in which case they got Aspirin.

The research centre was housed in the Harvard Hospital, so named because it was sent to Britain by the Harvard Medical School in 1940.

During World War II, it was an American military field hospital, and in 1946, it was turned over to the common cold project.

The volunteers ranged in age from 18 to 50, and some were repeat participants. One couple met there and returned the following year for their honeymoon. One man went through the 10-day quarantine programme 26 times, but Amos said he was "a rather odd sort of person."

Many participants came to vacation at the centre, nestled in rolling countryside in the shadow of the 123-metre spire atop Salisbury Cathedral, England's highest spire.

Two or three volunteers shared each of the centre's 12 apartments.

"We usually have a flat empty in reserve in case they're incompatible ... but in the main they usually get along," Amos said.

The volunteers were barred from Salisbury and neighbouring villages and had to keep at least 10 metres away from anyone but their room-mates or the gowned, masked medical staff.

"If they were on a walk and couldn't avoid meeting someone, they were told to put a paper tissue over their nose and walk by quick," said Amos.

Most volunteers came out of curiosity, Amos said, not for the money, a paltry daily sum of pocket money now set at \$ 3.

"There was also a certain feeling that they were working to help medical research — that voluntary spirit," he said. "It's pretty here and very quiet. If you live in the rougher spots of Liverpool or London, this is the total opposite."

Amos, who has had only one cold in his six years at the centre, will work for three more months overseeing its closure.

The Medical Research Council, which had provided the centre's \$1 million in annual funding, decided the unit would close after Director David Tyrrell retired.

"It was so much his work, that it was not really viable without him," a council spokeswoman said.

U.S. young men likelier

homicide victims than others

By Mario Fox

The Associated Press

CHICAGO, Illinois — Young men in the United States are more than four times as likely to be murdered than those in 20 other industrialised countries, according to a study released Tuesday.

And homicide is the leading cause of death among the nation's young black males, the report said.

In 1987, 4,223 men aged 15 to 24 were slain in the United States, or 21.9 per 100,000, researchers said in an article in the Journal of American Medical Association.

Scotland, a part of the United Kingdom, had the second highest rate, with 22 male

homicide victims in that age range, or 5 per 100,000, the article said. The rate for England and Wales was 1.2 per 100,000. No figures were given for Northern Ireland, also a part of the U.K.

Austria's 0.3 homicides per 100,000 young men was the lowest in the study.

The study did not say how these highs and lows compared with countries outside the study.

"If the U.S. homicide rate could be reduced to the next highest rate, more than 3,000 lives would be saved" each year, wrote Lois Fingerhut and Joel Kleinman of the National Center for Health Statistics in the article. Fingerhut pointed to the

availability of guns as one possible cause of the high U.S. homicide rate. The researchers found that 75 per cent of the U.S. deaths were caused by guns. France was second with 54 per cent.

Tom Wyld, a spokesman for the National Rifle Association, said the organisation wouldn't comment without studying the article.

But James Wright, a sociologist who specialises in criminology, noted that the Swiss own guns and have almost no history of violence. "But they do emphasise responsible firearm ownership much more than we do," he said.

Only one in 14 homicides in Switzerland was by firearm.

Tobacco blamed for 3,800 deaths among non-smokers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A study by the U.S. Environmental Agency says second-hand tobacco smoke is a human carcinogen, causing about 3,800 lung cancer deaths annually among the nation's non-smokers.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study, which is in draft form and has not been evaluated by the agency's independent science advisers, was quickly criticised by a tobacco industry trade association.

A statement from the Tobacco Institute said an analysis by the agency's Science Advisory Board "is likely

to significantly undermine the very basis of this draft."

The study, prepared by the agency's office of research and development, said an evaluation of studies about environmental tobacco smoke, which originates from burning cigarettes, shows that it causes cancer among non-smokers.

This conclusion, the study said, "is based on a total weight of evidence."

The evidence includes what the report calls "detectable association at environmental exposure levels" between cancer and non-smoking family members who live with a smoker.

"Within the population of women who are lifelong non-smokers," the study said, "the excess lung cancer risk of those married to a smoker is large enough to be observed."

Twenty-four studies from eight countries provide no other broadly applicable explanation for the association between environmental tobacco smoke and lung cancer among non-smokers, the report said.

Although only 30 per cent of the U.S. adult population smokes, the study said, there are detectable levels of nicotine, a metabolic product of tobacco, detected in the

blood, saliva and urine of 50 per cent to 75 per cent of non-smokers tested.

The estimate of 3,800 lung cancer deaths annually among the nation's non-smokers, the study said, includes approximately 1,750 females who have never smoked, 800 males who have never smoked and 1,250 former smokers of both sexes.

About 130,000 people will die of lung cancer every year, 85 per cent as a direct result of smoking. Smoking causes an estimated 390,000 premature deaths a year when emphysema and cardiovascular deaths are added to the

lung cancer total, according to government estimates.

The Environmental Agency's report said studies also have linked cigarette smoking in the home with increased respiratory disorders among children, particularly infants.

The Tobacco Institute said the draft report has "technical problems and inadequacies" and suffers from "the lack of scientific support."

"The statistical manipulations represented by the EPA draft risk assessment constitute, at the very best, speculation without an adequate scientific foundation," the Tobacco Institute statement said.

Trade policies ignore tobacco health threat-doctors

CHICAGO (AP) — A dramatic increase in smoking worldwide has been fostered by U.S. trade policies that ignore the health problems associated with tobacco, according to a report.

"Globally, increasing tobacco use is responsible for almost 2.5 million excessive or premature deaths per year —

almost 5 per cent of all deaths," said the report in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

U.S. trade policy is perpetuating the problem by trying to develop overseas — especially in Asia — a market that is drying up at home, said the report by the Medical Association's Council on Scientific

Affairs. The report's recommendations included urging the nation's largest group of physicians to lobby the U.S. government to alter tobacco trade policies, and imposing foreign-language health warning labels on cigarette packages for export.

A bill in Congress and sup-

ported by the Medical Association would require such labeling.

The U.S. Cigarette Export Association, which represents manufacturers responsible for 98 per cent of cigarette exports, contends the United States has no business imposing its restrictions on other countries.

Association counsel Andrew Copenhaver said this country is not responsible for the popularity of smoking overseas.

"There's no evidence that consumption trends (overseas) are being affected by whether or not the U.S. product is there," Copenhaver said.

Snoring — a distressing human imperfection

SNORING is defined as an abnormal form of respiration that occurs during sleep. But only the dictionary can take such a calm, detached view of this noisy phenomenon.

For snoring is estimated to affect up to one-third of mankind, if one includes the hapless perpetrators as well as the unwilling audience. "It is an enormous social problem that can be devastating to a relationship" says an American medical expert, Professor Morris Clark.

While millions will readily agree with this view, of itself it will bring no comfort. What

will is the claim by Clark and his research team to have found a certain cure for this distressing, human imperfection.

Snorers of the first rank are said to be capable of producing noise levels of up to 90 decibels. This puts them on a par with the most intrusive of pneumatic drills. But a solution could be at hand.

Researchers at Colorado University's School of Dentistry and Sleep Disorders Centre report that they have developed a mouthpiece that eliminates snoring.

Tests on ten married pa-

tients had shown the device to be completely effective in stopping ordinary snoring. It had also proved 90 per cent successful in preventing the condition known as sleep Apnoea — serious snoring when breathing stops for some time.

The scientists quote the grateful partners of the seven men and three women "guinea-pigs" in the trials as saying that the plastic mouthpiece had enabled them to enjoy their first night of sound sleep for a long time.

Apart from revealing that it is similar to that used by

American football players, the Colorado team is unforthcoming about the device because the university is widely patenting it.

Until it is more readily available, it may bring some comfort to those subjected to snoring that the condition also affects the snorer. They have Clark's assurance on this.

"Not only does this appliance totally eliminate snoring," he says, "but we found that our patients were more alert and attentive on the mornings after wearing it."

A colleague, Dr. John Rudy, confirmed that a snorer

usually did not get a sound rest. "They are often tired, worn-out and consequently less effective during the following day," he said.

With the prospect of an end to their anguish now on the way, sufferers are unlikely to resort to the solution adopted by the Texan gunfighter, John Wesley Hardin.

This legendary Wild West figure is said to have been so enraged by the snoring of the occupant of an adjoining hotel room that he emptied his revolver through the wall. This ensured silence — but cost the life of the noisy sleeper — Lion Features.

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Musical Bernadette portrays an act of faith

By David Brough
Reuters

LONDON — Faith is what the latest musical to open in London's West End is all about.

The faith of a French peasant girl who in 1858 saw a vision of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes is the inspiration for the musical Bernadette.

Its opening at the vast Dominion Theatre is itself an act of faith by its producers, all novices in the field, and by members of the public who put up about half the money.

Billed as the "people's musical" it won a standing ovation from a star-studded audience on its first night.

Initial press reviews, however, were scathing. "Oh dear," said the London Times. The backers "should have gambled their hard-earned loot on something surer of success, like the United Arab Emirates winning the World Cup."

Said the critic of the Daily Express: "Seeing Bernadette is certainly cheaper than a visit to Lourdes. It may also cure people of ever going to the theatre again."

The Daily Mail commented: "It will take a miracle on the scale of the loaves and fishes to turn Bernadette into a long-running breadwinner."

The London Evening Standard described it as "this marzipan musical with its sackcloth and ashes filling."

Producer William Z. Fonfe, who once ran a transport company for the film industry, decided to stage the show after seeing it produced by its husband-and-wife writing team, music teachers Maureen and Gwyn Hughes, at a provincial theatre.

"I loved the music," said Fonfe, who is using unknown performers instead of stars and his wife's dressmaker to make the costumes.

"I don't believe that 'stars' make or break a show in the West End," Fonfe, who is producing a theatrical show for the first time, told Reuters before the first night.

"As soon as you have a star, it becomes a one-man show. A show becomes riskier by pinning it on one name."

So newcomer Natalie Wright, a 16-year-old head

girl at London's Italia Conti Drama School, was cast as Bernadette, the 19th century peasant called an idiot and liar and threatened with jail when she said she had seen a vision of the Virgin Mary.

But rich backers refused to invest money in the show because it was written and produced by unknowns. The Hughes and Fonfe staked everything they owned to get the show into the West End, and appealed to the public for the rest.

The production company received £650,000 (\$1 million) from small investors, in amounts ranging from several thousand pounds to £1,000 (\$1,600) from one old lady who backed the show instead of buying a new kitchen.

Fonfe said he had raised the rest of the £1.25 million (\$2 million) production cost, including re-mortgaging his home.

"I got the idea to invite the public after (Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher's government sold shares in water," he said.

Apart from the chance of receiving a return on their



Natalie Wright plays the heroine in Bernadette

investments, members of the public who contributed had the right to attend rehearsals, and many of them were in the first-night audience.

Fonfe said some of the small band of rich investors who usually back West End productions may have steered

Barbara Taylor Bradford From blank wall to blockbuster

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

DUBLIN — Barbara Taylor Bradford faces a blank wall in her Manhattan apartment for 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

It may take years but at the end of long, hard work she emerges with another blockbuster saga to maintain her position as one of the world's richest and most successful novelists.

She sold her first story to a children's magazine at the age of 12 for 50 pence and celebrated by buying her mother a green vase at Woolworths.

Years later, her publisher paid her an \$8 million advance after her first novel A Woman of Substance, sold 12 million copies worldwide.

In Dublin this month to publicise her latest book The Women in His Life, Bradford recalled in an interview how her first four attempts at fiction never got off the ground.

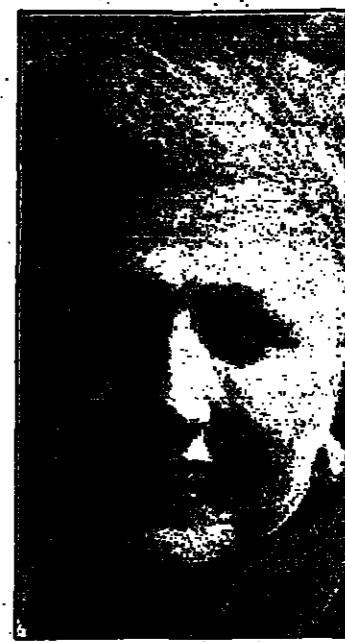
"I would get halfway and then feel 'If I am bored, the reader will be bored'," she said. So she re-examined her approach and came up with A Woman of Substance.

Elegant and carefully coiffured, Bradford is a forthright and approachable figure who started out as a 16-year-old club reporter in her native Yorkshire in northern England.

At 20, she went to London's Fleet Street, became a fashion editor, met and married American film producer Robert Bradford and moved to New York.

Four failed novels stuttered to a halt on her typewriter before she hit the jackpot with the saga of Emma Hart, a businesswoman marking it big in a man's world.

"I wanted to write a saga, I would set it in England and it



Barbara Taylor Bradford

would be about a woman who became powerful and a woman of substance. I looked at it on paper and thought that is a damn good title," she said.

The book was a phenomenal success and ranked among the fastest-selling novels in the world. It launched a trilogy of bestsellers and became a successful television mini-series starring Deborah Kerr.

"It was sort of lucky. It came out in 1979 at a time when women were just beginning to be independent and emancipated," she said.

Novel writing is a rigid routine. "I sit at a typing table staring at a blank wall. I have a roll of film in my head which is my imagination."

At her desk by 6.30 in the morning, she puts in a 12-hour day, breaking only to walk the dog. "It is hard work but it is wonderful when you are inspired and it is really flowing."

"Graham Greene said that character is plot. That clarifies the whole art of fiction-writing to me. It is the character of the main protagonist that

shapes and animates the plot."

She explains her success saying: "I put a lot of emotion on paper, the characters are very believable and the reader gets involved and cares about them."

Her books have sold 25 million copies in English language editions alone. She is published in 32 countries and 18 languages, the latest is Serbo-Croat.

She would bridle at any suggestion that her books could be bracketed with "heaving bosom" romantic novels or raunchy sex sagas.

"There is not a lot of sex in them. I prefer to call them love scenes. I am really writing about people's emotions. Everyone knows what goes on in bed."

She was about to embark on a new book about a woman founding a shipping empire when she was sent three books wanting quotes from her to use in advertisements. "All of them were A Woman of Substance, in different guises," she said.

So instead, she wrote The Women in His Life, about billionaire tycoon Maximilian West. Much of it is set in the war-torn Berlin of the 1930s and 1940s.

She went to East Berlin in 1987 to research the book. "It was like being in a ghost town. Everyone walked like a robot with eyes fixed ahead. I kept saying this wall has to come down. You cannot shackle people," she said.

"I was going to end the book where I started (in the 1930s), but then history intervened to bring it full circle. Who knew it would happen? History really played into my hands." It ends with the dismantling of the Berlin Wall last year.

MacLaine returns to stage show

By Patricia Zengerle
Reuters

PITTSBURGH — Shirley MacLaine's spiritual beliefs may have helped her see into past lives and traverse otherworldly planes, but her recovery from a serious knee injury has a more down to earth reason — a love of performing.

"I'm never going to be away from it," said the red-headed actress, dancer and writer.

MacLaine was in Pittsburgh for a six-day run of Out There Tonight, her song and dance show that was put on hold at the end of April when the 56-year-old performer fell during rehearsal and tore a ligament in her right leg.

Forced to cancel some early dates on a planned international tour, MacLaine underwent surgery and intensive rehabilitation during May.

While she pronounced herself fit for the show's reopening in June, the injury forced her to tone down her performing just a bit.

"I'm not going to jump up in the air and come down into splits anymore," she said, "but I should have changed that before I was injured."

In the show MacLaine per-

forms both original material and song and dance routines from the musicals Sweet Charity, and Gypsy, as well as tributes to some favourite choreographers.

MacLaine will take the show to Atlantic City, New Jersey, Houston, Toronto, Vancouver — "I'm half Canadian, so I have to go up there and play for all my relatives" — Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Japan before finishing in November.

She seemed invigorated rather than intimidated by performing live, even though she has been more visible as a film actress, with close to 40 motion pictures to her credit.

"Have you ever been on a movie set? It is truly boring for someone who is really fast-paced and fast-thinking," the Academy Award winner said before her show's opening.

"I'm tired by four o'clock because I haven't done anything," she said of making movies.

"This keeps me feeling alive."

In recent films MacLaine has won critical accolades for playing eccentric characters. In fact, she said, she has had no trouble making the transition from laying younger



Shirley MacLaine

women to what are diplomatically called "character" roles.

"I never was a beauty, never thought of myself as a beauty, so there was nothing for me to lose when my youth was gone," said the actress, who has worked steadily since

she started dancing in New York Chorus Lines while still in high school.

"I was a character actress from the time I began, really."

MacLaine played a crotche-

ty character in the 1989 female ensemble movie Steel Magnolias, and an ageing perfectionist piano teacher in 1988's Madame Sousatzka.

After five Academy Award nominations, she won the best actress Oscar in 1984 for playing a frustrated Texas widow in the film Terms of Endearment.

MacLaine said she thinks parts like Ouiser in Steel Magnolias, reflect her personality. "There's a part of me that's very curmudgeon-like and kind of cynically witty," she said.

After she wraps up the Out There Tonight tour, MacLaine said she will start shooting her next movie, about the late silent film star and writer Louise Brooks.

Despite the belief in reincarnation, positive thinking and other aspects of spiritualism featured in her four best-selling books, MacLaine said, she does not look far into the future.

"Because it always gets screwed up," explained the often blunt-spoken actress.

"If I plan too far ahead, it's like some giant hand moves in and says — that's not the way it's going to be."

King of ballet draws from many cultures

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — Carelessly elegant in casual attire, the innocence of his piercing blue eyes contrasting with the Mephistophelean look of his pointed beard, Maurice Bejart relaxes in his Cairo hotel, soaking up the atmosphere.

With his Ballet de Lausanne, the world-famous choreographer was preparing a major production called Pyramid, with the three Giza pyramids as a larger-than-life backdrop to the open-air stage. Although people came from throughout the world to see the show, it was presented for about a week in late May at the new Cairo Opera instead of the Giza stage because of contract problems. The audience was disappointed, but Bejart's genius still came through, enthralled his cosmopolitan public.

For Bejart, this was an opportunity to explore further a culture that has permeated his life for the past 20 years, since he converted to Islam. Today, he says, his philosophy of life reaches far beyond

the borders of his small country, Belgium, and even those of Europe.

"Now Europe seems very small," he confides. "Each nation's consciousness extends beyond its borders or that of a whole region; we cannot live isolated anymore. Any tremor can be felt throughout the world. Other people's wounds hurt us, also. On the other hand, each people strives to retain its identity, its roots, the particular flavour that makes it different."

"That's why I have been touring the world for years — trying to learn from different civilisations the most important lessons each can give. While most people learn with their head, their brain, what's special in my experience is that I learn with my body. Since I was a teenager I have trained to dance and express my feelings and my impressions through physical moves. And when I listen to music — a physical sensation — I reach out to people's soul, understanding them not only with my mind but also with my

heart."

In Cairo, Bejart relied on Islamic music from different countries. The show included five parts. Two had already been staged elsewhere, they are Alexander and Umm Kalthoum, but they were re-worked for the occasion; the three others, presented for the first time in Cairo, are titled Pharaoh, The Egyptian and Bonaparte. Italian designer Gianni Versace, a friend of Bejart's, designed the costumes.

Bejart seemed particularly thrilled to be able to introduce his new ballet in Cairo, and he was not sure that he would want to recreate the show in any other location. "Here we are all learning from each other," he notes. "I just discovered Cairo's new opera house and I am pleased to see that the Japanese architect understood so well the spirit of Islamic architecture." The same cultural symbiosis was forced on him recently when he created for the Tokyo Ballet a choreography based on Japanese traditions and accompanied with Japanese

music. "The emperor gave me an award for being the only foreign choreographer to have understood the soul of his country," Bejart says. "I hope the same will be felt by the public here, especially since I feel such a close relationship to Islam."

He admits his interest for music from the Arab World, from Morocco to Pakistan, and explains that he worked for a long time with a group of Iranian musicians. He also made for French television a programme honouring the famous singer Umm Kalthoum, now dead, whom he considers the best ever.

The Cairo show results from long years of research and it's a labour of love, he says, giving credit to the many experts who provided help — including the Institute of the Arab World in Paris that gave him access to rare musical documents and bibliographies.

"I hope the result will be a spiritual journey through different Islamic countries, assembled for a night on a stage that saw the birth of one

of the first civilisations, and one of the greatest."

Based in Lausanne, Switzerland, Bejart's dance company comprises 60 dancers, none of whom dominates the show. It's solid team work, and the dancers are perfectly in tune with the choreographer/director, no doubt because of the boundless energy and enthusiasm that Bejart exudes.

His vitality is remarkable for a man reaching 60. "The energy I feel and my inspiration spring from what others would call the source of life: life, even when it's dreary, suggests a wealth of ideas, and of course music plays a crucial role."

"Even to appreciate the music of the great romantics — Bach, Mozart — from Western Europe, it's indispensable to have listened to music from other cultures."

"Today I am working with music I gleaned from several Arab nations, but I want to keep the original arrangements: the beauty of the pieces is such that nothing should be altered."

As if to explain his international outlook and the particular bond, he feels for the African continent — the crossing of so many cultures — Bejart notes that his father and grandfather were born in Senegal, in fact his great-grandmother was black.

To those who tout the classic origins of ballet, and are dissatisfied with the variations introduced by modern dance, Bejart objects with his usual directness that classical ballet does not exist. At the root of it there is a particular technique, a sort of common language which dancers use to convey emotions, he explains, but even the so-called classical ballet is a changing art dependent on times and people.

For example, Swan Lake, staged for the first time in St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) bears no resemblance to modern renditions. You find that the process of evolution applies here, too. Each choreographer leaves his mark — an unmistakable aura."

Underlying the differences, the language remains the same, he insists, going back to



Maurice Bejart

his favourite theme: art being the instrument of communications between nations — the tie that binds disparate cultures and promotes understanding and peaceful relations.

As deft with words as he is with bringing raw energy to a dance stage, Bejart has already published three books — Mathilda, Dance's Song, and an autobiography of sorts titled An Instant in Another Man's Life — and he is working on a fourth one to be

called Sudden Death.

"The title might sound a bit morbid, but isn't it the best way to go — fast?" he asks with a dazzling smile. "The visitor can only acquiesce, thinking: How could death be so bold as to try to silence for ever a life so full of dreams, plans, ambitions and curiosity? The motto of the Roman Emperor Titus comes to mind: 'A day when I learned nothing is a day that's wasted'." — World News Link

Features

New York's street walkers may be 'safer' than thought

By Mary Reinholz
Reuter

NEW YORK — Late at night in East Harlem, New York, a small band of streetwalkers solicit passing motorists. A police car cruises by and the women retreat into the shadows.

Further up the dark street a prostitute in tight white pants evokes a sense of eerie desolation as she stands alone, right hand resting provocatively on her hip. Suddenly, a caravan bearing the logo "Lifestyle Condoms" pulls up. The prostitute, a crack addict and 32-year-old mother, flashes a nervous smile at the driver, John Reid.

"I was missing you," she says, entering the back of the van after Reid had turned a corner and parked alongside an empty petrol filling station.

The prostitute knows from the grapevine that Reid and Phyllis Pearson, a medical assistant working for Greenwich Village Internist Joyce Wallace, will give her \$10 if she takes the blood test for AIDS — and another \$20 if she phones Wallace's office or

drops by for the results.

Wallace, operating with a grant from the U.S. centres for disease control in Atlanta, has already found that one third of the nearly 950 New York city prostitutes she has studied are infected with the HIV virus that causes the killer disease AIDS.

Of that number, Wallace discovered, 73 per cent took drugs using shared needles. Another 23 per cent who tested positive for the virus reported having sex with intravenous drug users.

Both figures reflect the high risk of offering sex for money in the midst of a deadly epidemic.

Reid, doubling as Wallace's interviewer, sits opposite the prostitute on a couch in the van and asks if she has taken the AIDS test before. She shakes her head.

"I don't lie. I do a lot of things, but I don't lie. I believe in the lord," she says, grimacing slightly as Pearson draws her blood.

Within minutes at least five other prostitutes and their pimps show up, surrounding the van, attracted by the lure of quick cash

for a blood test.

Reid tells them to wait outside, then continues questioning the first woman. "I used to shoot (inject) drugs," she says. "But I haven't in 10 years."

"(Did you) clean your needles?" asks Reid.

"Yeah," she murmurs.

"Sometimes I'd buy me a new one."

This prostitute lives with her mother, in contrast to a fifth of the streetwalkers surveyed by Wallace who are homeless.

Some of them get paid only three dollars, the current street price of a vial of crack — a highly addictive form of cocaine smoked in a pipe — or even less, from their customers.

Wallace's preliminary findings on streetwalkers and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the result of a nine-month study of the blood samples of prostitutes taken in drug-ravaged neighbourhoods.

She notes that the high rate of HIV infection among New York city's estimated 4,000 streetwalkers doesn't necessarily mean that they are spreading the dis-

ease to their clients.

"Most streetwalkers use oral sex and it's difficult to spread (AIDS) that way," she says, while admitting that oral sex is not without risk. "Also most of them use condoms, although there's resistance from men."

Wallace interviewed 500 men who patronise street prostitutes and found only three had been infected.

Epidemiologist William Darrow, a centre for disease control official who oversees studies of prostitutes and AIDS, says there still are no reliable estimates on the relationship between prostitutes and the spread of the epidemic to their clients.

"Many men say they've acquired HIV as a result of (patronising) prostitutes. But until we find the prostitutes and verify (this), we have to be a bit sceptical," he said.

"It's more socially acceptable to say you got (AIDS) from a prostitute than to say you got it from a homosexual encounter or from shared needles," Darrow adds.

Dr. Rand Stoneburner, direc-

tor of the AIDS Research Unit for the New York City Department of Health, says that studies by the unit going back to 1985 "do not show that having sex with a prostitute, per se, is a significant risk factor for infection."

But Stoneburner notes that an emerging sub-population of crack-addicted prostitutes engage in sexual transactions more often than other streetwalkers to support their addiction. He says these prostitutes may become a potential risk for spreading AIDS because of their frequent sexual encounters.

They say many prostitutes had been practicing safer sex before the phrase became popular and avoiding hard drugs to protect their source of income — their bodies.

"Maybe they've smoked drugs and done some crack. But largely, there's a prohibition out there," says Arlene Carmen of the Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village, who has worked with streetwalkers since the 1970s as part of the church's ministry to prostitutes.



"They are ashamed because Ceausescu called them his children and now that he has been branded a criminal they are the children of a criminal."

Romania's orphans get a taste of childhood

By Samantha McArthur
Reuter

TROGEN, Switzerland — A long way from Bucharest, a dozen Romanian children play in a Swiss chalet decorated with bright Romanian cloth and pictures of the Romanian soccer team.

Switzerland's pestalozzi village cares for children of all nationalities whose countries are torn by war, famine and revolution.

"These children have suffered so much. Some of them have parents who simply don't want them," said Erich Friemel, a Pestalozzi administrator who has visited Romania.

"They are ashamed because Ceausescu called them his children and now that he has been branded a criminal they are the children of a criminal."

Revelations of appalling conditions in state homes, where orphaned and abandoned children born under former Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu are kept, have stunned experienced aid workers who say they have rarely encountered such neglect. Nine-year-old Nico Smirks as a nurse ruffles his dark hair. He does not want to talk. His eyes are fixed on a large television screen where a World Cup soccer match is about to begin.

"Already he is looking better fed," the nurse says. Under the Ceausescu dictatorship Romanian women were forced to bear children. Contraception and abortion were illegal.

Families who could not cope with the burden of extra mouths to feed put their children into state homes. Authorities estimate there are children into state homes. Authorities estimate there are now tens of thousands of children in homes, many of whom cannot be adopted because their parents refuse permission.

Elisabeth Bratulescu, one of four nurses who accompanied the children from their home in Giurgiu, south of Bucharest, said: "These kids do not live as badly as some — those deemed 'hopeless cases' — but conditions are

tough with only one supervisor for every 30 children."

"Where they have their own toys. They can help themselves to fruit at any time. These are luxuries they can't get used to."

But after spending three months in this valley in northern Switzerland, the children, aged nine to 12, must return home. Bratulescu hopes the situation in Romania will have improved.

"We are chronically short of teachers and it takes time to train them but already things are better in material terms than under Ceausescu," Bratulescu said. Friemel admits it may be cruel to give the children a quick taste of Western style comfort then

Frümel says the organisation, which was founded by Swiss Journalist Walter Corti to help refugees after World War II, also sets up aid projects in countries like Romania so that children can be helped without being removed from home.

Swiss teachers will return with the group to Romania where the education ministry says it is eager to move away from collectivised children to a more individual approach.

The village, currently home to 160 children, has spawned a network of similar institutions around the world and has become a Swiss tourist attraction. "The Japanese come here after they've

Revelations of appalling conditions in state homes, where orphaned and abandoned children born under former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu are kept, have stunned experienced aid workers who say they have rarely encountered such neglect. Nine-year-old Nico Smirks as a nurse ruffles his dark hair. He does not want to talk. His eyes are fixed on a large television screen where a World Cup soccer match is about to begin.

send them back: "But the visit is intended to be an example for the children and the Romanian nurses who are with them of what life can be like."

Over the years, the village has welcomed children from Tibet, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Cambodia and Lebanon. Some have settled in Europe. Others have gone back.

"Our priority is to get the children to return home if possible," said Secretary Ruth Egli.

Critics have attacked the Pestalozzi village for uprooting children from their own culture and forcing them to adopt an alien way of life.

visited the Matterhorn and the Jungfrau mountains," Egli said, sitting in the village's multi-denominational prayer room.

Children here play together with little regard for political or religious difference but Egli says that a child who has lived through 10 years of war sometimes harbours a depth of hatred which cannot be erased.

Some children draw pictures of their experiences as a form of therapy. They depict planes dropping tear-shaped bombs on hill-sides and towns.

"Some have no names, no age, no state. If you think you sometimes have identity problems, just imagine that," Egli said.

East European poor seek scraps from German banquet

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

WEST BERLIN — Like beggars at a banquet, the destitute of Eastern Europe are flocking to Berlin in a quest for scraps from the rich Germans' table.

Since soon after the Berlin Wall opened last November, each day has brought an influx of Poles and Romanians, many of whom trade on the black market, work illegally or beg.

The poorest, gypsies from Romania, sleep in train stations and send their children to beg on the city's pavements.

Amid euphoria over the economic and monetary unification of Germany, a new, highly visible underclass has become a focus for racism and xenophobia, especially among young Germans.

West Berlin's glittering shops, flashy cars and elegant sidewalk cafes are a magnet for beggars and thieves.

"It is a consequence of the great East-West economic gap. Berlin is an island of affluence in a sea of poverty," said Werner Thronicker, spokesman for West Berlin's interior department.

"Beggings is a big problem. Petty crime such as theft from cars, shoplifting and pickpocketing has soared since the wall fell," he told Reuters.

The migrants use a legal loophole created by Berlin's special four-power status. A 1967 order by the three Western allies, issued at the request of West Berlin's governing senate, allowed East Europeans to enter the city without a visa for up to 30 days.

"Until the wall fell that made sense. Now it is a problem," Thronicker said.

Since border controls ended in the city at the beginning of this month, there has been no way of controlling the influx into West

Berlin.

"We have no idea how many Poles and Romanians are in the city," Thronicker said.

"We know that 20,000 Poles are legally registered as living here and more than 5,000 Romanians have applied for political asylum. But many more have come here as tourists and work illegally or beg."

East Germany, which abolished the last border controls with the West on July 1, has tried to stem the flood of Poles and Romanians by insisting they show invitations to enter the country.

West Berlin officials say the measure will at best slow but not solve the problem. Things could get worse if the Soviet Union eases travel curbs on its citizens, Thronicker said.

The East Germans have even housed some Romanian migrants temporarily in an army barracks to get them off the streets.

On Unter Den Linden, the majestic tree-lined avenue that runs from the Brandenburg Gate through East Berlin, Romanian children armed with hand-written signs in pidgin German prey on tourists and residents alike.

"Dona me una marca (gave me a mark)," young boys drone, their sad eyes fixing beer-drinkers on the cafe terrace outside the neo-classical opera house.

One wait for looked not more than 10 years old seemed unaware that East Germany had abolished its currency on July 1 and adopted the West German mark.

He was still gratefully accepting worthless East German coins two days later.

In West Berlin, Romanian beggars have taken up residence around Bahnhof Zoo, the central railway station. Women in colourful headscarves, some nursing babies, hold out a leathery hand in a timeless gesture of supplication.

West Berlin police can do little to stop begging, which has not been an offence in West Germany since 1974.

City fathers fear the wave of begging and petty crime may turn cosmopolitan Berliners — long regarded as among the most tolerant Germans — into narrow-minded racists.

"We are concerned that the people of Berlin do not develop hostility towards foreigners," Thronicker said.

Romanian migrants are sometimes berated and cursed and occasionally assaulted by Germans. Local newspapers have reported growing xenophobia since the German borders opened and put the nation on course to unity.

On a muddy wasteland on the western side of the Berlin Wall, East Europeans — mainly Poles — stage an unofficial market every day, selling cheap food, used goods and clothes from their countries. Up to 20,000 people have attended the so-called "Polenmarkt" (Polish market) on some weekends.

The Poles use the proceeds to stock up on Western goods which they sell at a profit back home. One supermarket chain, Aldi, has been nicknamed "poldi" because hundreds of Poles queue daily outside its cut-price stores.

The cycle of black market trading is completed with Poles returning to Berlin having bought more cheap goods in Poland.

West Berlin officials say the market is waning now because drastic economic reforms in Poland have virtually wiped out the price difference by ending subsidies on basic goods.

Among those who resent the influx of East Europeans are West Berlin's large Turkish immigrant population, the underdogs of West Germany, who suddenly face new competitors in the cheap labour market.



Squeezing through the Berlin Wall only to be squeezed out by hunger and poverty.

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Man. United, Aston Villa to represent England in European soccer cups

LONDON (R) — Manchester United and Aston Villa, representing England in Europe's soccer cups next season after the country's five-year exile was ended Tuesday, were both drawn against East European sides Wednesday.

Manchester United, the first English winners of the European Cup in 1968, were drawn against Peci Munkas of Hungary in the first round of the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Aston Villa, also former European Cup winners, mark their return to Europe with a home tie against Banik Ostrava of Czechoslovakia in the UEFA Cup.

The ban on English clubs competing in Europe ended unconditionally Tuesday with the full approval of the British government and the European Football Union (UEFA).

Spanish champions Real Madrid begin their challenge for the European Cup against Odense of Denmark, hoping British Manager John Toshack can fulfil their obsessive quest for the trophy they last won 24 years ago.

Real, six-times winners of the most prestigious European trophy, went out in the second round last season to Italian AC Milan, winners for the last two seasons, who have a bye into the second round.

Italy's second representative in the cup, Napoli, who are hoping Diego Maradona can inspire them to further glory this season, are drawn against Ujpesti Dozsa of Hungary.

Marseille, whose bid to become the first French club to win the European Cup floundered in the semifinals last season against Benfica of Portugal, face Dinamo Tiran from Albania.

West German champions Bayern Munich, beaten by AC Milan in the semifinals last season and determined to emulate at club level the national team's World Cup success, face an easy first round tie against Apollon Nicosia of Cyprus.

Scotland's Glasgow Rangers, knocked out by Bayern in the first round in 1989-90 but strengthened by the arrival of former England international striker

Mark Hateley from Monaco, should progress without much difficulty against Valletta of Malta.

There is no English side in the European Cup as champions Liverpool face a further three-year ban for their supporters' part in the Heysel disaster. The Netherlands are also without a representative as champions Ajax Amsterdam have been banned for a season because of crowd disturbances.

European Cup Winners' Cup holders Sampdoria of Italy face a difficult first-round tie against Kaiserslautern of West Germany.

Italian clubs won all three trophies in an unprecedented clean-sweep last season, but UEFA Cup holders Juventus will not be defending their title.

The club which now boasts Italy's national striking partnership, Salvatore Schillaci and Roberto Baggio, join Sampdoria in the Cup Winners' Cup after winning the Italy Cup and meet Bulgaria's FC Sliven.

Dutch Cup winners PSV Eindhoven, champions for the previous four years and European Cup winners in 1988, begin their latest campaign under former England Manager Bobby Robson against Montpellier of France.

The UEFA Cup has thrown up a West German-East German tie between Borussia Dortmund and Chemnitz in what could be the last season for East German participation.

Aston Villa Chairman Doug Ellis said of their draw against the Czechs: "It's a test but we are ready for it — ready and willing."

Manchester United Director Amer Midani said: "We are very pleased, delighted with the draw. We want to be ambassadors for English football."

A Marseille club source said they would be contacting the French government to discuss the visit to Tirana as they believed several of the Albanian players

were seeking refuge in various foreign embassies.

The ties for all three competitions are to be played on Sept. 19 and Oct. 3.

East Germany's soccer federation said Tuesday it might withdraw from the qualifying rounds of the 1992 European Championships because of the impending unification of Germany.

East Germany are due to play World Cup champion West Germany in a group five qualifying match in Leipzig on November 21st.

"Two German teams qualifying for the European championships and playing in them could cause problems," Hans-Georg Moldenhauer, president of the East German federation, told journalists. "This match does not have to take place."

Moldenhauer said the match could perhaps be replaced by a farewell game between East Germany and a rest-of-Europe or rest-of-the-world side.

His proposal will be on the agenda when the two federations meet to discuss the future of German football in two weeks time.

The two Germans are moving at breakneck speed towards political unification, which is expected to be completed at the end of this year. The countries' Olympic committees could already be merged by then.

If their football federations fail to keep pace, a bizarre situation could arise in which East Germany is represented in an international soccer event after it has ceased to exist as a state.

The West German Football Federation wants East German clubs to join its Bundesliga from the 1992/93 season, but East German officials, worried about the defection of their best players to wealthy Western clubs, want an earlier merger.

Moldenhauer said East German clubs should enter the league in the 1991/92 season.

"Our clubs will stop receiving state funds next year and we have reorganised along the lines of the market economy," he said. "East German football could be fitted seamlessly into the West German federation next season."



Mats Wilander

Wilander makes strong showing in comeback

BASTAD, Sweden (AP) — Was this the start of a new tennis career? "I don't know, but I sure had a lot of fun out there today," said Wilander after dropping only three games in his comeback on the slow clay at the Swedish Open Tuesday.

The 25-year-old Swede, whose seven Grand Slam singles triumphs in the 1980s was matched only by Ivan Lendl, beat Johan Anderson of Australia 6-0, 6-3 in his first match in five months.

Lack of motivation and personal problems forced Wilander into the longest layoff of his career. He played his last match on Feb. 5 in California.

Since then, Wilander said he touched a tennis racket only twice before starting practicing for his comeback last week.

He was admittedly worried before the long-awaited comeback. Were the groundstrokes still there? How about the physical condition? The foot work? There were many questions.

"I have a long way to go," Wilander said. "But I played at least twice as good today as I did in practice last week."

Wilander wasn't confident as he started the preparations for his comeback in his south Swedish town, where he scored most of his early junior wins.

"It feels like I'm starting all over again," he said. "It's so difficult to aim at the top when you can't see it. A lot of patience will be needed and I hope people will understand that."

He was patient against Anderson, an 18-year-old who was born in Sweden and made the semis here last year. Anderson, ranked 99th in the world, seemed more nervous and Wilander made him make the mistakes.

Wilander, now ranked 29th in the world, says he is looking forward to the U.S. Open.

"Of course, the U.S. Open is my big goal," said Wilander, whose five-set win over Lendl at Flushing Meadows in 1988 made him the world's top-ranked player. He also won the Australian and French Opens that year.

But he didn't last long at the top. A few months later, Wilander was dethroned by Lendl. Several layoffs followed because the motivation wasn't there.

After dropping out of the top 10 last year, Wilander appeared to be back as he reached the semifinals of the Australian Open in January.

Then, on the hardcourts at Indian Wells, California, Wilander lost in the first round to fellow Swede Jan Gunnarsson. He also lost his motivation.

"I was mentally tired," he said. "I had no motivation. It wasn't fun to play any more and I was forced to take a break. I don't regret it."

Wilander skipped the French Open in Paris, the site of his first Grand Slam victory at 17 in 1982, and Wimbledon, the only major championship that has eluded him, after his father's death in May.

Wilander will play one more tournament than usual to get ready for the U.S. Open. He is scheduled to play at Stuttgart, Cincinnati and New Haven, Connecticut before the final Grand Slam event of the year.

"I didn't want to lose this match. I wanted to win every point," said Wilander. "It's fun to be back again, but please give me some time. I've only got five days training in five months. I expect the next few weeks to be up and down."

Wilander trained with a glove last week because of blisters. "I'm grateful I was drawn to play a guy like Johan. He plays the same clay court game as I do. It makes it easier."

Guillermo Perez Roldan, the top seed from Argentina, posted a 6-4, 6-2, win over Swede Thomas Enqvist in another first-round match.

Juventus urges UEFA to end Liverpool ban

TURIN, Italy (R) — Italian UEFA Cup champions Juventus Tuesday welcomed the lifting of a ban on English soccer clubs competing in Europe — but said Liverpool should also be allowed back.

"We've always been in favour of the English teams playing in Europe. We'd hoped Liverpool would start playing soon too. The World Cup showed that the English team behaved very well," said Juventus spokesman Piero Bianco.

English clubs were barred from Europe in 1985 after a riot at the Juventus-Liverpool European Cup final in Brussels in which 39 people were killed, most of them Juventus fans.

Bianco said: "We've got excellent relations with Liverpool. In the past few years we've waged a solidarity campaign so that the English teams can play in Europe."

The lifting of the ban was also welcomed in Britain, where team managers said a return to European competition would help improve the quality of the English game.

Aston Villa's Commercial Manager Abdul Rashid said: "We are absolutely delighted. It is a tremendous boost for everyone at the club."

"European competition has its own particular attractions and it is a marvellous reward to our supporters for the tremendous encouragement they gave the club last season."

In France, former UEFA President Jacques Georges said Liverpool could make a quick return to Europe if other English clubs and their supporters behaved.

"The Brussels incidents obliged us to take tough measures. Well, five years on the timeline is very tough," Georges told French radio.

Arsene Wenger, manager of Monaco, said: "I am very happy because you can't really have European cups without the English. They guarantee a good spectacle and fair play."

The Belgian manager of Bordeaux, Raymond Goethals, said: "It's very good news for sport and for the players. But let's hope it won't be necessary for the security forces to mobilise an entire town before a match."

Jacques Ruts, chairman of Dutch club PSV Eindhoven, said: "This is a good thing for European football. From a sporting point of view English clubs have always been fine opponents."

In West Germany, Dortmund Manager Michael Meier said: "In sporting terms, it's a good decision. After five years one should make an attempt. I am looking forward to an eventual duel with Aston Villa."

British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan summed up: "We see today's decision as the drawing of a new era for English football in Europe — one which we warmly welcome."

European champions AC Milan applauded the decision. "The English teams have always been fearsome opponents. But their readmission to international competitions will enrich European football," said executive official Ariosto Braida.

"Now the framework of European cups is complete and that's definitely fair."

Meanwhile Belgium plans to lift a ban on British soccer teams introduced after the 1985 Heysel disaster, a government aide said Tuesday.

Chris Van Lembergen, adviser on soccer hooliganism and public order, said Interior Minister Louis Tobback was to ask his government colleagues to scrap the ban.

"The decision in the cabinet will probably be taken next week," Van Lembergen said.

Unlike UEFA's Belgium's unilateral banning measure applies to all British clubs, not just the English ones.

Van Lembergen said the ban had been lifted in the past for individual matches but Tobback wanted it abolished altogether.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANANIAN HIRSCH
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Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 10 3
♥ A K J 3
♦ Q 10 4
♣ A 7 4

WEST EAST
♠ 5 2 ♠ 8 7 4
♥ 10 9 7 5 ♥ Q 8 4 2
♦ J 8 7 2 ♦ 5
♣ Q 10 3 ♣ J 8 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 9 6
♥ 6
♦ A K 9 6 3
♣ K 9

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠
It is a lazy habit to settle for the first plan of attack you uncover. Once you have good idea of how you want to proceed, look around to see if the overall campaign can be strengthened.

North's jump to three no trump described a hand of 16-18 points and a 4-3-3-3 pattern. When South showed an unbalanced hand, North jumped to five no trump to indicate an absolute maximum with too many aces to initiate a cue-bidding sequence. With at least a king more

than a minimum opening bid South elected to contract for all the tricks.

West led a trump and declarer saw no problem with the hand. Trumps were drawn in three rounds and South was all but ready to claim the rest of the tricks when East showed out on the second diamond. With two diamonds to get rid of declarer was forced to take the heart finesse. Unfortunately, that was not to be a down one.

The combined 3-2 diamond split and heart finesse offered about a 90 percent chance of success. But there was yet another possibility suggested by the high trumps on the table — a dummy reversal.

After winning the opening lead in hand, declarer should cash the ace of hearts, discarding a diamond from hand and then ruff a heart high. If the queen of hearts comes down, declarer can draw trumps and claim. When the lady doesn't appear, declarer returns to the board with a trump to the ten and when both defenders follow he can virtually claim. Declarer ruffs the last heart, cashes the ace and king of clubs and ruffs a club. A diamond to the queen provides the entry to draw the last trump and the ace and king of diamonds take the last two tricks.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 13, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good time for you to use some much newer methods to get you property and possessions in shape as long as you don't force any issues or annoy anyone of influence.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well where you stand in all matters of a property or a financial nature and consider the best way you can add to these benefits, assets.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can and should be self-absorbed in going after a course of action whereby you can gain those things which are most vital to your happiness.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to pretty much close yourself in from the world and consider deeply what your intimate longings are and how you can best attain them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Query your various friends and acquaintances just what they can do to support your present personal ambitions and bring you more special pleasures.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) You need to know now just where you stand in the world of outside activity or in some government or civic matter so find this out today.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) You should start the day with a considerable amount of enthusiasm in pursuing an interest that has considerable scope and interest to others.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get your calendar arranged for whatever meetings are of interest to you today and later you can go into planning to not expediting them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to make sure early that the structure of your home and family is on a very good basis, especially the plumbing; later do usual home duties.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look into all available sources

to ferret out specific data you desire and you should find it much more readily than is usually the case.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well where you stand in all matters of a property or a financial nature and consider the best way you can add to these benefits, assets.

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VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look into all available sources

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 12, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: One of your very best days in a long while so be alert and wide awake to all kinds of new ventures, new ideas, new undertakings and new modes of expression that expand your interests.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't venture out of your home early, then you can meet with those of varied views from you, come to an agreement, tonight analyze your holdings.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Avoid argument with a new contact early, then you can pour over plans for the coming days and solve them sensibly after which be romantic with mate.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The daytime finds you are able to thoroughly enjoy partners and congenial personal companions while in evening go out on the town of recreation.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your home is the place where you can get the most achieved in whatever direction you are treaded while tonight plan work schedule for coming days.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Much delight around for business and personal reasons is fine for gaining information during the daytime, while tonight is fine for engaging in a hobby.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A very good day to have

discussions to use best from the past and to build a greater security in the days ahead; tonight family support for your pet project.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day to concentrate upon yourself and your own personal needs and wants and in the evening you can arrange coming days practical activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well how you can use the best of your experiences to make a campaign that utilizes modern conditions for greatest potential success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day to seek out your most cooperative friends and go along with their views for both your and their present advancement.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Ignore complaints of long time contact early, after which you will be able to get out in the world of activity to do what you like most.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Whether physically or mentally this is a fine day for you to be open-minded and go after whatever can enhance your present well being.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) A very good day to go into your long time obligations and to find new and improved methods and formulas for handling them in a well balanced manner.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I have trouble getting my husband to eat healthy food. Got any liver-filled donuts?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POURC

SITOF

TANDLE

LOWPAL



WHY HE WOKE UP FEELING DOWN IN THE MOUTH.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: CURRY ABBEY IMPOSE EMBRYO

Answer: Went on foot in a rainstorm—RUBBERS

THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller

ACROSS

- Minty drink
- Fountain treat
- Hindu melody
- Cottonwood
- La Scala
- Highlight
- Comic type
- Vacillate
- Pull hard
- Sphinx site
- Imaginary animals
- Drones' homes
- Mimicked
- Gadabouts
- Handwriting flourish
- Competition
- Stage whisper
- Circus marl
- Numbers
- Swain
- Capone's nemesis
- Trouper
- Weaver's device
- Nettle
- Usher's territory
- Double take
- Army VIP
- Long ago
- Commonplace
- Swirl
- Chop up
- Spillane's "Jury"
- Star s.d.
- Swain
- Hoodlum
- United
- Kinsmen
- abbr.
- Self-gracker
- Peafowl
- 8 Month
- OPEC
- Colleague
- Swain's light
- Wall Street
- Political coup
- System
- 11 Title (lose on purpose)
- Goggles
- Squirrel away
- Not sweet
- Swain margin
- Kind of treat
- "Who — turn to"
- Addict
- Swain
- Gourmet
- Moila
- "— fan tuft"
- Swain
- Marco —
- Hot issue
- Swain
- Harshness
- Learned ones
- 50 Svelte
- 33 Locomotive
- 44 Symbolic
- 46 Excellent
- 56 Old kingdom
- 48 Biliary compound
- 57 Lack
- 49 Kind of train
- 60 Ovum

Cup final referee defends controversial penalty call

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — The referee who awarded West Germany the penalty shot against Argentina that decided the World Cup final said Tuesday he is convinced his ruling was legitimate despite the uproar it caused.

Edgardo Codesal, a nationalized Mexican who was born in this South American nation, told the newspaper El Pais that he and International Soccer Federation officials later watched taped replays of the call.

"We all agreed: It was a foul," he said.

Argentine defender Roberto Samsini brushed against attacker Rudi Voeller on the right side of the penalty area as Voeller was about to shoot. West Germany was awarded a penalty shot, which Andreas Brehme kicked and made.

The final score Sunday was West Germany 1, Argentina 0. Codesal was criticised severely, first by the Argentine squad and then by newspaper columnists and soccer followers in many countries.

In the interview with El Pais, he rejected accusations he was biased in favour of West Germany.

"If I wanted to hurt Argentina, it would have been much easier to call (a penalty), for example, on an earlier play in which (Argentine goalie Sergio) Goycochea tripped a German" who was approaching the goal, Codesal was quoted as saying.

"No penalty was called, but if I intended to hurt Argentina, I could have," he said.

The red-card expulsion of

Argentine defender Pedro Monzon, which left Argentina two men down with nine players, was for overly aggressive play, Codesal said.

A foul Argentine players insisted should have been called against the West German who sideswiped midfielder Gabriel Calderon "was not a foul," Codesal said.

The referee, who was trained as a medical doctor, said he intended to stick with his decision to retire. He announced his retirement before the World Cup final.

Meanwhile in Bangladesh two opposition lawmakers Tuesday supported Argentina soccer star Diego Maradona's charge that Codesal favoured West Germany during the World Cup final.

"Injustice was done to Argentina and we are all shocked at the attitude of the referee," said Abdur Rab, the leader of opposition in parliament.

On Monday, Maradona charged that a football "mafia" orchestrated a plot to ensure a West German victory and said the penalty kick was awarded to "punish Argentina."

Rab unsuccessfully urged the house to adopt a condemnation resolution and send it to FIFA.

"A murderer can be pardoned, but not the Mexican referee who acted as one of the West German players," said another opposition member, Shahjahan Siraj.

Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmad said he respected the opposition members' sentiments, but added that "it will not be wise to take a resolution condemning the referee."

Soviets keep chess lead but Indian closes in

MANILA (R) — Three Soviet grandmasters moved closer Wednesday to qualifying as candidates for the World Chess Championship but India's Anand Viswanathan made the biggest stride, moving within half a point of first place.

The Soviet trio of Boris Gelfand, Vassily Ivanchuk and Mikhail Gurevich tied for top spot at 7.5 points, playing quick draws against their opponents to virtually clinch three

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

IBRD lowers interest rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the biggest section of the World Bank, has announced that it will lower its interest rate on new loans to an annual 7.72 per cent for the six months that began July 1. The rate for the previous six months was 7.75. In the last 12 months, the bank made \$15.2 billion worth of loans. The total is expected to rise in its current fiscal year. For some older loans the rate was dropped to 7.7 per cent from 7.75 per cent. The bank calculates the rates it charges on the basis of its own borrowing costs, adding 0.5 per cent.

EC helps Polish, Hungarian projects

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) has earmarked over a \$100 million worth of cash to boost private enterprise in Poland and Hungary, and EC officials have said. Five new projects got clearance last week, and will help small and medium enterprises as well as agriculture in the emerging democracies, an EC statement said. The EC has budgeted 300 million European Currency Units (\$360 million) to help the two countries this year, 240 million of which have now been committed to specific projects. The EC executive commission is coordinating international help from 24 leading Western industrial nations for six East European countries trying to switch from communism to capitalism. The project, which started last year to support Poland and Hungary, was so far raised about \$13 billion for those two countries alone.

Saudi bank boosts net profit by 37%

BAHRAIN (R) — United Saudi Commercial Bank, (USCB) one of the kingdom's nine joint ventures, has said its net profit for the first six months of 1990 rose by 37 per cent to \$5.8 million (\$14.88 million). The bank said in a statement an increase in deposits and loans boosted operating income to \$9.3 million (\$23.5 million) in the first half of the year from \$8.3 million (\$20.5 million) during the same period in 1989. Expenses were cut to \$2.9 million (\$7.7 million) from \$3.7 million (\$9.2 million) in the first half of 1989. Provisions against doubtful debt were steady at \$15 million (\$4 million). Loans and advances grew by 49 per cent to 1.2 billion riyals (\$320,000). Assets also surged to 6.07 billion riyals (\$1.6 billion) from 4.67 billion (\$1.2 billion). USCB is owned 70 per cent by Saudi nationals. Saudi International Bank, Bank Melli Iran, and United Bank Ltd. each have 10 per cent.

Islamic bank lends Pakistan \$35m

BAHRAIN (R) — Massraf Faysal Al Islami, one of Bahrain's two offshore Islamic banks, has said it would loan Pakistan \$35 million to finance development projects. The money would be used to finance power, textile, spinning and steel projects. Islamic banks do not take interest or guarantee returns to their depositors because this is viewed as usury, which is prohibited by Islam. They take on the full risk of loans by accepting an agreed percentage of any profits while underwriting any losses.

Ivory Coast keeps austerity course

ABIDJAN (R) — President Felix Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast has replaced his finance minister and ordered closed 12 of the West African country's embassies abroad as proof that he remained committed to economic austerity. An official communiqué said seven Ivorian embassies in Africa, three in Europe and two in Latin America were being closed as part of the government's drive to cut public spending and compensate for declining earnings from coffee and cocoa, the two main exports. The former French colony's conservative government adopted a tough austerity programme June 1 which aims to slash state spending by 25 per cent in return for fresh foreign aid. But it has proved unpopular among Ivory Coast's 12 million population and the once prosperous country has been rocked by months of strikes.

Islamic bank to arrange 12-year Gulf Air credit

BAHRAIN (R) — The Bahrain bank Massraf Faysal Al Islami said Monday Gulf Air had asked it to arrange a \$365 million credit to buy six new Boeing 767 aircraft.

The Islamic bank said the facility, which it won against strong competition from several international syndicates, would be based on a 12-year lease financing agreement.

It said the pricing would be cheaper than Gulf Air's previous financing from conventional banks but gave no details.

Islamic banks do not take interest or guarantee returns to their depositors because this is viewed as usury, prohibited by Islam. They take on the full risk in lending by accepting an agreed percentage of any profits while underwriting any losses.

Massraf Faysal, one of Bahrain's two offshore Islamic banks, said in a statement it would launch its own asset-based Islamic marketable instrument to raise cash for the deal.

A bank spokesman said the instrument could be bought and sold on a secondary market under terms complying with Islamic Sharia law — a first in the history of Islamic banking.

Gulf Air has ordered the six Boeing 767s, expected to cost around \$69 million each,

France launches new debt relief initiative

HOUSTON (R) — France, championing the developing world at the rich nations' annual economic summit, launched a bold and potentially expensive plan Tuesday to ease the debt burden of a host of countries ranging from Poland to Jamaica.

President Francois Mitterrand called on his fellow leaders in the Group of Seven leading industrialised democracies to lighten the debts that their governments are owed by so-called middle-income countries.

"We must now, here in Houston, take a new step forward," a French statement on the Mitterrand plan said. "It's time to round out the mechanisms that we have gradually put in place."

In 1988 the Group of Seven — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — agreed at their summit in Toronto to easier terms on the official debts owed by the world's poorest countries.

Last year the Paris summit endorsed a plan, drawn up by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, to reduce the value of the loans owed to commercial banks by big debtors such as Brazil and Mexico.

But, Mitterrand said, some countries have fallen between the cracks, ineligible for the plans because they are not poor enough or owe most of their debt to government creditors.

"How can we fail to see that there is an anomaly in the present arrangements for handling

debt?" Mitterrand asked his counterparts on the second day of their three-day summit.

To plug the gap, he proposed that government creditors choose among three options — reduction of the principal amount of the loan, a lower annual interest rate and a combination of "substantial" new credits and the rescheduling of old debts.

Only countries following courageous economic recovery programmes approved by the International Monetary Fund would qualify for debt concessions, Mitterrand stressed.

Developing nations have a total foreign debt of about \$1.2 trillion. Of that, about \$150 billion is owed to governments and official export credit agencies by middle-income debtors such as Jamaica, Cameroon and Ivory Coast, according to a senior French official.

But he said it was impossible to estimate the cost to governments of the Mitterrand plan, if it were adopted, because its principles would not be applied mechanically.

Rather, creditors would negotiate debt-reduction deals on a case-by-case basis, just as commercial banks have done in applying the Brady plan.

But the cost could be huge. Poland, which owes \$30 billion to Western governments, has asked for an 80 per cent write-down to free money for investment in its ailing economy.

Romania begins lifting subsidies, almost doubles price of petrol

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's newly-elected government, pledged to introduce a market economy, said Tuesday it was lifting subsidies on oil imports and almost doubling the price of petrol.

Economic Reform Minister Adrian Severin told Romanian television a dramatic fall in industrial output had forced the government to take action.

"The government has been forced to reduce subsidies so money made available can be re-routed to support basic goods, such as meat and milk," he said.

He said fuel consumption had tripled in Romania since December's uprising which ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The price rises took effect at

midnight. Hundreds of motorists, attempting to beat the deadline, began queuing outside petrol stations in central Bucharest where tailbacks stretched more than three kilometres for several hours.

Prime Minister Petre Roman launched a tough government reform programme two weeks ago, promising to free the economy of more than 40 years of rigid communist control.

Roman said the legacy of fat communist subsidies used to prop up lame-duck industries would be erased.

Severin said a six-month moratorium on trade union pay claims proposed by Roman was not

working.

"The moratorium should have given us a chance to implement the government programme but we have been faced with several strikes," he said.

He said the price of petrol would rise from nine lei (45 cents) to 15 lei (75 cents). He also announced price rises for mineral water, paper, newspapers and books.

"This is part of our promise to introduce gradually a market economy which means high efficiency through private initiative and competition," Severin said.

Ceausescu left an economy crippled by severe shortages of food, consumer goods, spare parts and raw materials.

Bahrain rejects 20,000 live Australian sheep

CANBERRA (R) — A buyer is being sought for a shipment of 20,000 Australian live sheep, rejected by Bahrain because some were old and others infected with scabby mouth.

The rejection earlier this week, confirmed by Australian government officials, is a further blow to Australia's live sheep trade to the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia, the major buyer, has rejected about 600,000 Australian live sheep since last September claiming some were diseased or too old. Most were re-routed and bought by other Gulf states, including Bahrain, whose rejection of the 20,000 sheep has caused concern among sheepmeat exporters in Australia.

Bahrain claimed around eight per cent of the latest batch carried scabby mouth, a cold sore infection, and many were above

the preferred age limit of three years, said a spokesman for Primary Industries and Energy Minister John Kerin.

"The exporting company is looking for a new market for the sheep," said a spokesman for the Australian Meat and Livestock Corp (AMLC).

The AMLC is working on new guidelines for the live sheep trade, including sending sheep with no more than six permanent teeth, which identifies them as around three years old.

There will also be tighter veterinary inspection in Australia to eliminate diseases. Ships which can carry from 20,000 to 120,000 live sheep will not be loaded to full capacity to allow for a quarantine area for sick sheep.

The guidelines will be sent to commercial exporters and trade to Saudi Arabia, suspended for

the past month, could resume later this month, AMLC sources said.

Saudi Arabia has in the past taken half the seven million live sheep, valued at around \$230 million. Australia shipped annually to the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia, which is building up its own commercial sheep flocks, has also rejected live sheep from other countries on the grounds of age and disease, the sources said.

New Zealand, specialising in ram lambs, has benefited. Its live sales to Saudi Arabia in the first six months of this year were double the 483,000 sent in the same period in 1989.

Australian sheep farmers, who until recently were getting a good price for wool, had been trying to divert for export live sheep no longer fit for wool.

Gulf Arabs settle oil row

DUBAI (R) — Gulf oil officials were optimistic Wednesday that leading OPEC quota violators Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were serious about a new accord to cut excess output and reverse a slide in world oil prices.

The five Gulf Arab members of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) met in Saudi Arabia overnight to end a dispute over output quotas which has created a glut in the market and sent prices down by 30 per cent since January.

"We have strong reasons to believe that this time it will be a successful attempt to solve the quota problem. It was an important meeting and they are very serious about getting prices back to \$18," said a source close to the talks.

OPEC's declared target is a world average spot price of \$18 a barrel. The average has sunk to around \$14.

The talks brought together the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar.

The key results were:

- Kuwait renewed a pledge to cut to its assigned quota.
- The Gulf five resolved to find a solution to the problem of the UAE, which has opted out of the OPEC quota system which it calls unfair, before a full meeting of all 13 group members in Geneva on July 25.

— The Gulf states would not press for a higher ceiling on total OPEC output and higher individual quotas at the July talks unless average spot prices have rebounded \$18.

Gulf sources said the solution to the UAE problem may be to get it to accept a quota of 1.8 million barrels per day (b/d).

Other OPEC ministers thought it had agreed to produce at that level under a stopgap output accord negotiated on May 3, but its output has remained closer to two million.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, who has publicly attacked Kuwait and the UAE for undermining oil prices and losing other OPEC members' billions of dollars, said he now was optimistic.

The Jeddah meeting was "a positive and important step to correct oil prices," he said. "We hope to achieve a decisive solution for the (UAE) problem within a few days."

The ministers issued a statement Wednesday saying they had agreed to stick to their quota limits until the price is back to

OPEC's \$18 target.

Oil traders, accustomed over the past year to seeing OPEC pledge to cut output but then fail to do so, said they would want proof of OPEC's good intentions.

Among analysts, Geoff Pyne, energy economist with London finance house UBS Phillips and Drew, said: "I think one has to be a bit cautious but this is a drop that might become a trickle of good news."

London August futures for world benchmark crude oil, North Sea Brent blend, firmed five cents to \$16.10 per barrel.

But oil traders said the firmer price was due more to the news that U.S. crude oil stocks had dropped further than expected in the week to July 6.

While the UAE has demanded a quota of two million barrels daily, the most the OPEC majority has wanted to offer it has been parity with Kuwait at 1.5 million.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, July 11, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	662.0	666.0	French franc	120.4	121.1
Pound Sterling	1203.2	1210.4	Japanese yen (for 100)	448.1	450.8
Deutschemark	403.9	406.5	Dutch guilder	358.4	360.6
Swiss franc	477.1	480.0	Swedish crown	111.4	112.1
			Italian lira (for 100)	55.2	55.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	195.7	196.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.8070/80	U.S. dollar	1.1585/90
One U.S. dollar	1.6445/50	Canadian dollar	1.8535/40
	1.8535/40	Deutschemark	1.3920/30
	33.82/87	Dutch guilders	5.5150/5200
	5.5150/5200	Swiss francs	1204/1205
	1204/1205	Belgian francs	148.15/25
	148.15/25	French francs	5.9500/50
	5.9500/50	Italian lire	6.3050/3100
	6.3050/3100	Japanese yen	6.2550/2600
	6.2550/2600	Swedish crowns	353.50/354.00
One ounce of gold	353.50/354.00	Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

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Madeline Tabar
in
KAFROUN

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

Shirley MacLaine
in
MADAME SOUSATZKA

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NUJUM** Tel: 675571

Silvester Stallone
in
TANGO & CASH

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Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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Monsoon rains cool fears of new war over Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (R) — Monsoon rains and the promise of high-level talks have cooled immediate fears that India and Pakistan will go to war over a Muslim revolt in the Indian state of Kashmir, diplomats said Wednesday.

But they said India's recent decision to give troops and police new powers to fight Kashmiri militants made it more likely the situation would heat up again once the rains stop.

"No-one wants to fight in this weather. But we may see tensions rising again, perhaps in September," said one diplomat stationed in Islamabad.

This year's monsoon, which meteorologists say is heavier than usual, has drenched the plains between India and Pakistan over the past two weeks. Indian news agencies say more than 100 people have died in monsoon flooding.

Heavy downpours have also hit Pakistan and the government's meteorological office has forecast that rivers in the Eastern part of the country will soon begin to flood.

The rains have helped to further cool the subsiding war fever over Kashmir, as the two sides prepare for next week's talks between their top foreign affairs officials.

"The monsoon has a certain practical effect," said one European diplomat in Islamabad. "But the Kashmir situation remains very disturbing."

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since

independence from Britain in 1947 over Kashmir. Relations plunged to a new low this year with escalating Kashmiri militancy aimed at either independence or union with Pakistan.

Pakistan controls one third of Kashmir. It has accused India of reneging on a promise to allow the state's Muslim majority to choose in a United Nations-mandated plebiscite whether they want to belong to Hindu-dominated India or Islamic Pakistan.

India dismisses this as interference and has charged Pakistan with arming and training the Muslim guerrillas fighting in Kashmir. Islamabad rejects the accusation.

New Delhi declared much of Kashmir a "disturbed area" on July 5 and has given police and the army sweeping powers — including authority to shoot to kill — to fight the insurgency which has killed more than 700 people in the past six months.

Amid renewed Indian accusations of Pakistani support for the guerrillas, Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto departed Tuesday for a six-day tour of five Muslim countries to drum up international support for her government's position.

Diplomats and political

analysts said the situation would remain "in a holding pattern" as both sides prepare for the talks between the Pakistani and Indian foreign secretaries in Islamabad on July 18 and 19.

Despite cautious government optimism about the talks, many diplomats and officials say privately they see little hope the confrontation will be resolved.

"We don't see much chance of a basic change in India's position," said one Pakistani Foreign Office official.

Meanwhile, army troops on both sides of the border have temporarily turned their attention to the new enemy: flooding brought by the monsoon rains.

In India's desert state of Rajasthan, which military analysts say is one of the most likely theaters for a fourth war between the two neighbors, troops are now battling to stem the destruction brought by the monsoon.

Indian helicopters have dropped food parcels to thousands of Rajasthan residents waiting on flat rooftops, while the air force has ferried in army engineers and veterinary experts to help save stranded cattle.

The Pakistan army, while not yet actively involved in flood relief operations, is watching the situation closely and preparing to mobilize against flooding at any time, an army spokesman said. "Our main job is to get to places where civilian (relief workers) cannot reach," he said.

Ramos Human rights issues must not weaken military

MANILA (R) — Human rights concerns must not weaken the Philippine military's three-front war against rebels, Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said Wednesday.

He said the Philippines was fighting Communist guerrillas, Muslim separatists in the south of the country and rightwing army rebels who attempted to oust President Corason Aquino last December.

"So-called violations of human rights, when they in fact occur, are not condoned by the government, particularly the Department of National Defence and the armed forces," Ramos said in a speech to the Philippine Bar Association.

"But concern over these rights must not soften our resolve to defeat the threats before us," Ramos declared.

"One of the commonest tactics of the left today is to cry human rights every time the state moves to arrest or mount an operation against the rebels and their apparatus of intimidation," he added.

In a report released Wednesday, the London-based human rights group Amnesty International said more than 200 people in the Philippines, including human rights activists and church workers were killed by government forces or government-backed forces last year, and at least 40 people disappeared.

Bayan, a leftist group of Philippine students and workers, said in a statement Wednesday the human rights record of Aquino's government was "abysmal at best, in spite of her campaign promises and subsequent public rhetoric."

It alleged there were daily cases of people detained illegally, tortured, killed or disappearing. Ramos said the military was determined to uphold democracy. "The public must understand," he declared, "that there is a fundamental difference between the government forces which are fighting to preserve stability and the rule of law, and the rebel and terrorist forces which stand for disruption and the rule of fear."

Armed Chamorro supporters open fire on Sandinista targets

MANAGUA (R) — Radical backers of President Violeta Chamorro, some of them former contra rebels, fired Sandinista targets Tuesday night in a gunbattle that appeared to signal an intensification of the conflict in the Nicaraguan capital.

The Chamorro supporters, their faces hidden behind masks and bandanas, said they were firing on Sandinista sharpshooters and were bracing for a joint attack from the army, police and Sandinista civilians.

Tracer bullets lit up the night as about 20 armed government supporters fired AK-47 assault rifles and pistols at their targets from positions around a pro-government radio station.

Earlier, two soldiers and a government supporter were wounded in a shootout near the radio station, Radio Corporacion.

An army lieutenant suffered head bruises and a soldier was shot in the arm as they drove past the radio station in an army jeep, witnesses said. A supporter of the Chamorro government outside the station was shot in the leg.

Armed men at the radio station said the two soldiers joined Sandinista sharpshooters in firing on the crowd. Reporters at the scene were unable to confirm whether

the troops opened fire.

The Chamorro supporters said they believed the army was still allied with the former Sandinista government, which formed the military force after leading a 1979 revolution that toppled rightist dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Attorney general Danilo Balciano, minister of repatriation Roberto Ferrey and Deputy Interior Minister Jose Pallas were inside the radio station negotiating with the armed government supporters when the shooting began.

Sporadic shooting could be heard later Tuesday night.

A government statement late Tuesday expressed confidence the conflict, started as a result of a general strike by pro-Sandinista opposition unions, would soon be peacefully resolved.

Chamorro "expresses her faith that the current situation will be resolved with the same civic spirit that the immense majority of Nicaraguans people expressed on Feb. 25," the statement said.

It was referring to the date Chamorro defeated the Sandinistas in elections. Chamorro took office on April 25 ending 10 years of Sandinista rule in Nicaragua.

On Monday, Chamorro said she had ordered the army to join

police in restoring order to the capital of 850,000 residents.

On Tuesday, soldiers used bulldozers to knock down cobblestone barricades strikers had set up over night. As soon as the barricades were cleared, others were built.

Pro-Sandinista Radio Ya said the government was preparing to use force to pull strikers out of occupied government buildings while Radio Corporacion said the Sandinistas were handing out rifles to their supporters.

The strike closed the country's international airport and Nicaragua's border crossings with Costa Rica and Honduras. It shut down government offices and halted cultivation of coffee and cotton crops in some western provinces.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said Tuesday a strike against the Nicaraguan government's free-market policies was a political effort by the Sandinista opposition to undermine badly needed economic reform.

"The Sandinistas mismanaged Nicaragua's economy for 10 years, leaving it in disastrous straits. Now, for political gain, they are seeking to blame the government for taking the reform measures necessary to clean up the mess," it said in a statement.

Australians 'planned' Manila coup to cover gold heist from bank

SYDNEY (R) — Australian police said Wednesday they had uncovered a plot to steal gold bars worth \$7.5 billion from the Philippine Central Bank during a planned coup against the Manila government.

Philippine government spokesmen said they were unaware of the alleged plot and Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia said the bank did not possess that much gold.

"It's the kind of scenario that makes for a good B movie," said Manila government spokesman Tomas Gomez when asked by reporters about the Australian revelations Wednesday.

Police sources said a former Australian magistrate was behind the plot to recruit mercenaries to steal 550 tonnes of gold bars from the Central Bank in Manila during a rebel coup supposed to take place on June 1. The plot never occurred.

Three people appeared in court in Sydney Tuesday on charges related to the alleged plot, the sources said.

A police prosecutor told the court the plotters planned the robbery to coincide with a coup to topple Philippine President Corason Aquino, the sources said.

"Anything is possible," commented Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus in Manila. "But I've never heard of this report to rob our Central Bank."

"There's not that much gold available he could have stolen," Cuisia said. He would check further into the reported plot, he said, adding that security was good around the bank.

The Philippine Central Bank's gold holdings are believed to be less than 100 tonnes, far below the 550 tonnes referred to in the police charges.

The police sources said an Australian businessman involved in the plot contacted rebel leaders and agreed to pay them gold for their help in the bank robbery.

"He was telling people that a certain amount (of gold) would have to be given to them (the rebels) in return for helping them get out," a police said.

Police told Sydney's central local court that the former magistrate and an Australian businessman had arranged for mercenaries to sail a ship from Cairns, on the Queensland coast, to Manila to pick up the gold.

Buyers for the gold had been found in Hong Kong and Europe.

Between April 18 and June 8 this year, former magistrate Murray Farquhar and businessman Gerald Kron approached two unidentified men and proposed to organise the gold heist, police prosecutor Sergeant Dick Strong told the court.

Death toll hits 23 in Kenyan riots

NAIROBI (AP) — A newspaper reported five new deaths Wednesday, bringing to at least 23 the number of people killed in four days of clashes between riot police and stone-throwing mobs.

Kenya appeared calm Wednesday.

The English-language daily Nation said the five new deaths all occurred Tuesday in Kiambu district, a region about 25 kilometres west of Nairobi.

It said police shot dead four people in Githunguri, a town in the district, after rioters tried to force students to demonstrate for multiparty politics and join them

in building roadblocks.

A fifth death was confirmed in the district's Muchatha village. A six-year-old girl died there after being hit by a stray bullet, said the newspaper.

Dozens more people also were injured by gunfire and beatings Tuesday and 1,040 were charged in courts in Nairobi and Nakuru with looting and rioting, the newspaper reported.

The government said that as of Tuesday morning, 15 people had died and 61 people were injured in the clashes.

But at least three of 10 deaths confirmed independently prior to

the official tally were not included in the government breakdown. The independent tally, including the deaths reported Wednesday in the daily Nation, was 23.

President Daniel Arap Moi Tuesday blamed the violence on "hooligans and drug addicts."

The clashes followed last week's detentions of Kenya's most prominent supporters of political pluralism. They began Saturday, when police used tear gas and guns to disperse pro-democracy demonstrators in Kenya's capital.

Colombia drug sweep nets 11 but Escobar escapes

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian police and soldiers detained 11 close aides of fugitive drug lord Pablo Escobar in a major operation Tuesday but their main quarry appeared once again to have escaped.

At least 3,000 police and troops took part in the biggest hunt yet for Escobar, alias "the godfather," boss of the feared Medellin cocaine cartel and Colombia's most-wanted drug trafficker, Colombian television said.

The task-force captured 11 people, including Escobar's brother-in-law, personal doctor and head of security, said a police statement quoted by the Colombian News Agency, Colprensa.

Escobar was with them but managed to escape the dragnet, leaving behind documents and weapons, it said.

The search was continuing and Escobar's arrest could be imminent, the television news said. Police spokesmen could not immediately be reached for comment.

Local news reports described the operation as a harsh blow to the Medellin cartel, which has been at war with the government since President Virgilio Barco launched a tough drug crackdown in August last year.

Security Police Chief General Miguel Maza Marquez met Barco Tuesday night to brief him on the operation, Colprensa said.

Television news showed hundreds of heavily armed police and soldiers landing in helicopters to search for Escobar in the semi-jungle Magdalena Medio area of central Colombia.

The force, led by police Operational Director General Octavio Vargas, included 1,500 members of the crack police elite corps.

The 11 suspects were detained near Doradal, some 100 kilometres east of Medellin and close to Escobar's Naples farm, which was confiscated by the government last year.

The police and soldiers seized 3,500 kilograms of explosives, AK-47 and Galil automatic rifles, police-issue revolvers, sophisticated communications equipment and documents about the Medellin cartel, local radio quoted senior police sources as saying. They also discovered a secret clinic used by the cartel.

Others detained were the cartel's chemist, a cartel member who organised transport for cartel assassins.

It was the fourth time in the past 11 months that Escobar, wanted for extradition to the United States, has narrowly escaped arrest.

The authorities, who accuse Escobar of masterminding a trail of bombings and assassinations that have killed hundreds of people, have offered a \$400,000 reward for information leading to his arrest.

The government said Tuesday it will never let U.S. troops join the anti-drug fight in Colombia and suggested that Rambo type operations are needed more in the United States.

The comments by Foreign Minister Julio Londoño came in response to a Newsweek story. The magazine said U.S. troops would play a passive role in dramatic, simultaneous antidrug strikes in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.

Colombian news media interpreted that as a suggestion that American troops would be used. Newsweek said a drug raid involving U.S. troops is unlikely to happen anytime soon if ever.

The foreign minister's comments, in a broadcast interview, seemed aimed more at Colombians than at the United States.

"...Where these Rambo type actions are needed is in the big North American cities where big distribution centres are found and drugs are sold on street corners with the knowledge of American authorities," Londoño said in the interview with RCN radio.

"If any aid is needed, it should be in the form of paying fair prices for our export products and avoiding import taxes on our agricultural and industrial products," Londoño said.

Colombia's staunch refusal to even consider the presence of U.S. combat troops on its territory goes back almost 90 years, to Colombia's loss of what is today Panama.

The presence then of U.S. gunboats assured the success of a small group of rebels that demanded independence from Colombia. The new country of Panama then emerged from the rebellion then negotiated the Panama Canal treaty with the United States.

The U.S. government has demonstrated repeatedly since then that it understands Colombia's sensitivity to any U.S. military presence here.

Cuba refuses to negotiate departure of embassy refugees

HAVANA (R) — The Cuban government has said the flight of seven Cubans to the Czechoslovak embassy in Havana was aimed at creating a false image of insecurity in the country and added it would not negotiate their departure.

The seven entered the unguarded embassy in Havana's Nuevo Vedado district Monday in an incident which looked likely to further strain deteriorating relations between Cuba's Communist authorities and the new non-Communist administration in Prague.

Two who said they were students sought political asylum while the other five, who said they were political dissidents, asked to be able to tour Europe and return to Cuba without fear of reprisal by the Cuban government.

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E. European aides hold talks at NATO for 1st time

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — NATO, putting its post-cold war diplomacy into high gear, has held talks with senior officials from Warsaw Pact member Czechoslovakia for the first time, alliance sources said Wednesday.

Foreign ministers from several Warsaw Pact countries, including the Soviet Union, have visited NATO headquarters since the Berlin Wall crumbled last November. East German Foreign Minister Markus Meckel was the latest, Tuesday.

While Meckel was at NATO, the sources said, another meeting unique in NATO's 41-year history was taking place.

"The meeting with the Czechoslovaks is a sign of the alliance's shift towards a greater political and less military role," said one source. "It is the first time that we have had such contacts at the level of officials."

A delegation, led by Martin Palous, a senior foreign policy

adviser to Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, spent several hours with members of NATO's Political Committee, which represents all of the Western alliance's 16 nations.

Palous invited the committee to visit Prague. "They are likely to accept, and that would be just as unique," said another NATO source.

During decades of East-West confrontation, NATO imposed tight travel restrictions for its officials on travel to Communist countries. But now that democracy has come to Eastern Europe and the Warsaw Pact is on the verge of collapse, these will probably be eased.

NATO, keen to show it still has a role to play in building the new Europe, extended the invitation to Palous and his colleagues.

Alliance leaders agreed at a summit in London last week to adapt NATO's military strategy and offered a peace declaration

to the countries of the Warsaw Pact.

They also said Eastern European countries could accredit diplomats to NATO headquarters. NATO sources said the Czechoslovak delegation had expressed keen interest in this.

Meanwhile Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has written to his Warsaw Pact colleagues to prepare a joint response to NATO's offer of a non-aggression declaration, Meckel said Tuesday.

Meckel told the press he had received the letter from Shevardnadze Monday. The Soviet minister asked him to write down proposals for the Warsaw Pact answer to NATO, namely the form the non-aggression declaration should have, he said.

He said the same letter had been sent to the Warsaw Pact's five other foreign ministers.

Meckel said Shevardnadze suggested in his letter that NATO

representatives be invited to attend some Warsaw Pact meetings, perhaps those of its Consultative Political Committee.

However, NATO sources who requested anonymity said the alliance would be very reluctant to accept such an invitation, since it would legitimise the Eastern military alliance in its present form.

Meckel earlier Tuesday proposed to limit the unified German army to 300,000 troops, down from a current total of 635,000 in East and West Germany.

"I have the impression this is acceptable to NATO," said Meckel, the fifth Warsaw Pact foreign minister to visit to NATO in recent months.

West Germany's military now totals 465,000 troops and East Germany's about 170,000. Within the West German coalition government, proposals for troop ceilings for a unified Germany range from 320,000 to 380,000.

Czechs dismiss Communists more easily than pollution

PRAGUE (AP) — Tatana Maresova has sworn off meat as long as she is breast-feeding.

From the newspapers, now free of the constraints of censorship, she knows meat is often contaminated with harmful substances.

Emissions from chemical plants, coal-burning industries and two-cycle cars guzzling a mixture of oil and gasoline have polluted the air, made much of Czechoslovakia's water unfit to drink and seeped into the food chain.

Heavy industry was the measure of success under decades of Communism unconcerned about environmental protection. Czechoslovakia is among the most environmentally damaged countries in Eastern Europe.

Marcela Peskova worries about the store-bought milk she gives her two daughters.

"I know they get pollutants, but without it they couldn't grow," she said, casting an anxious glance at Kristina, 5, and Pavlina, 4.

Both mothers routinely boil the water their family drinks and try to buy bottled mineral water for

the babies. "More than 50 per cent of the water is not suitable for drinking," said Josef Vavrousek, the man in charge of environment in the new government. "More than half the population is drinking damaging water."

Vavrousek faces a daunting task in his new post: He must assess the damage caused by heavy industry.

Together with the environment ministers of the Czech and Slovak republics, he must set priorities and develop a programme for solving environmental problems.

How long might that take? "I think all of my life," he said. But he believes it is possible to "make very important improvements in two, three or five years."

Mothers in polluted Prague or the heavily industrialised regions of northern Bohemia and Moravia must guard against passing on pollutants to their offspring.

The Lidova Demokraticke daily newspaper recently quoted experts as saying the milk of women between 18 and 34 frequently is contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), DDT and other

toxic materials.

The newspaper quoted a veterinarian as saying that under the Communists, experts had tried to inform the government about PCB contamination of meat, but the problems were disregarded.

Dr. Alena Chyska, who heads the department for the care and development of the new generation in the Health Ministry, also criticised the old system.

"Some monitoring wasn't done," she said. "Some studies were secret."

In the health field, too, a re-evaluation is underway now that the Communists are out. "Everything is in a state of upheaval," Ms. Chyska said, gesturing to stacks of files in her crowded office.

Ms. Chyska said birth defects and other health problems appeared more common in heavily polluted areas, where children were also more likely to contract respiratory illnesses and allergies. But family history and other factors also played a role, she said.

Until conditions improve, residents of Prague and other polluted areas must rely largely on their own resources to protect

their health.

"If I had money, I could buy a country place," said Ms. Peskova.

Ms. Maresova is luckier.

Her parents live in the countryside. Her six-month-old baby Michal was born with respiratory problems, but his health improved after several months at her parents' place in the mountains in Slovakia.

Her parents now raise vegetables in their garden. "With the baby, we need uncontaminated food," Ms. Maresova explained, as her 7-year-old son Tomas fidgeted next to her on the park bench.

Did she miss taking some precautions with her first-born because media discussion of environmental problems was taboo under the Communists?

"When my first child was growing up, really important information seemed to seep through," she says.

Vavrousek's number one priority is to improve the quality of water and food, first of all seeing that there is a good distribution of bottled water.

But muzzling sulphur-belching factories with filters won't be

easy. It is costly and requires technology not available in Czechoslovakia.

Plenty of Western companies have offered to help plug the pollution hemorrhage.

"We've gotten hundreds of offers," Vavrousek said during an interview in the offices he has occupied for only eight weeks. "But we have two problems. We don't have the experience to decipher the offers, or the money to buy it."

The first freely elected government in four decades has been dubbed the "government of national sacrifice" by President Vaclav Havel. It has the unpopular task of closing down loss-making industry, sharing out burdensome state companies and injecting market forces into the centralised economy.

"If the economy is not improved, the environment can't be either," Vavrousek said.

The worrisome implications of decades of environmental pollution on life span moved Ms. Peskova to a philosophical observation as she stroked her daughters' hair. "The quality of life is more important than the quantity," she sighed.



The toast that never came

HOUSTON (R) — It was to be a rousing toast to the revolution of 1989, to the winds of freedom that swept the globe from Central Europe to Central America, to the promise of a new West. But President George Bush's planned remarks after a dinner Tuesday for leaders and ministers from the world's seven richest nations attending an economic summit never came. "He forgot the speech," said a White House spokesman, explaining why the text handed out to reporters in advance went unspoken.

Surviving septuplets awarded \$6.2m in damages

LOS ANGELES (R) — The three survivors of the first set of septuplets to be born in the United States received a \$6.2 million settlement Tuesday from the fertility clinic where their mother was treated. Their parents, Sam and Patti Frustaci, had sued the Tyler Medical Clinic of Los Angeles, claiming that one of its infertility specialists, Dr. Jaroslav Marik, had failed to properly monitor the mother's use of the powerful fertility drug Pergonal.

One of the septuplets died at birth and three others died within a month. The parents said in court papers the three survivors, who are now aged five, all suffer cerebral palsy. Under the terms of the settlement the family will receive \$450,000 immediately and the remainder will be paid at \$2,000 a month until the children, two boys and a girl, are 18, at which time they will receive \$6,000 a month among them for the rest of their lives. Frustaci's lawyer, Browne Greene, said Frustaci was pregnant again through a fertility drug. This time she is expecting twins.